

## Aoun vows to oust Syrians

BEIRUT (R) — Artillery shells rained across Beirut's green line Tuesday, killing at least 30 people in Lebanon's worst sectarian clashes for two years. Military leader Major-General Michel Aoun declared that a battle had begun to drive Syrian forces from the country. But there was no independent confirmation of his charge that some of the 25,000 Syrian troops in Lebanon had joined the fighting (see earlier story on page 2). Aoun, whose government competes for power with a civilian rival backed by Syria, told reporters at the presidential palace in the Fakhriyeh suburb of Beirut: "We have only one goal which is to liberate our land. We cannot any more be under the mercy of the Syrian gun..." He denied that his troops shelled civilian areas, saying they were shooting only at the Syrians. Syrian forces, who originally arrived under an Arab League peacekeeping mandate in 1976, are deployed in west Beirut, the north and the Bekaa — about two-thirds of the country. Tuesday's shelling was the first head-on clash between the rival governments which picked up the fragments of power when parliament failed to elect a new president last September.

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## U.N. chief again calls for peace talks

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar called Tuesday for urgent efforts led by the U.N. Security Council to promote Middle East peace negotiations and said he would play an active role. In a message to a foreign ministers meeting of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference being held in Saudi Arabia, he also criticised human rights violations by Israel in the occupied territories. "I have repeatedly called on the Israeli authorities to abide by their obligations under the fourth Geneva Convention whose applicability to the occupied territories has been reaffirmed many times by the Security Council," he said. The convention provides for the protection of civilians in wartime. Perez de Cuellar, who is to meet Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Arens Friday, termed the situation in the territories bleak, with a rising death toll of "innocent civilians, many of them women and children. Collective punishments — such as deportations, curfews, the demolition of homes, the closures of schools — are widespread and imposed with total disregard for the human rights of the civilians under occupation," he said.

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## Jordan, Tunisia discuss tourism

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan and Tunisia opened talks here Tuesday to plan further cooperation in promoting tourism in the two countries and to coordinate plans for stimulating the tourism industry.

Visiting Tunisian Minister of Tourism Mohamed Jugham held talks with Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education Thougou Hindawi during which they voiced their countries' desire to promote the existing cooperation and to benefit from each other's experiences in tourism-related affairs and means of attracting foreign tourists to Jordan and Tunisia.

Earlier Tuesday, Minister of Tourism Yanal Hikmat held separate talks with the Tunisian Minister to discuss scopes of cooperation. The talks covered traditional tourist industries, desert tourism, marketing of tourist sites abroad, joint cooperation in attracting tourists from Europe, as well as training of personnel employed in touristic centres and hotels.

The visiting Tunisian Minister expressed the view that the two countries can and are bound to carry out close cooperation in tourism-related fields.

The Tunisian Minister met later with Information Minister Hani Khasawneh who outlined Jordan's information policies. Information services in the Kingdom, Khasawneh noted, are being employed to serve the country's socio-economic projects.

Jugham arrived in Amman Monday evening on a four-day official visit.



Regent visits Armed Forces HQ

HIS Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Tuesday called at the army headquarters in Amman and met with Army Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Fathi Abu Taleb. Abu Taleb's

senior aides, including the Armed Forces inspector general, attended part of the meeting (Petra photo)

## Qasem: Palestinian uprising increasingly isolated Israel

RIYADH (Petra) — Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem Tuesday said the Palestinian people's revolt has continued and is escalating day after day, thus tightening the grip on the enemy's neck, exposing its oppressive practices and increasing its isolation.

Addressing the four-day meetings of the 46-member Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC), currently held in Riyadh, Qasem said the ongoing intifada in the occupied Palestinian land "is not a mere reaction to the oppressive Israeli practices and behaviour, but is a true reflection of the Palestinians' will and resolve to restore their rights and

freedoms, including their right to self determination on their national soil."

Qasem noted that Jordan's decision last year to sever legal and administrative ties with the occupied West Bank has contributed to highlighting the Palestinian identity.

He added that the decision was consistent with the resolutions of the various Arab and Islamic summits, and that it was in response to the requests of the Palestinian leadership.

The decision, Qasem said, has given the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) the full responsibility for restoring the Palestinian rights.

Speaking about last year's

meeting of the Palestine National Council (PNC) which was held in Algiers, Qasem said that the meeting was created a new era in the Palestinian political efforts, expressed in the resolutions adopted at the intifada session.

These resolutions and the following clarifications, made by PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, have encouraged most of the countries to recognise the Palestinian state and to voice their support to the PNC resolutions, Qasem said.

He pointed out, that the new Palestinian position has had a great impact on the United States position. Such an impact was

(Continued on page 2)

## Palestinians salute Israeli peace activists; call for more protests

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Leaders of the 15-month-old Palestinian uprising have praised Israeli peace activists and urged Arabs to step up clashes with Israeli troops, Palestinian sources said Tuesday.

In leaflets distributed overnight, the revolt's underground leadership accused the United States of bias toward Israel and ordered attacks against paramilitary border police who have replaced regular troops in some areas.

"We insist that the uprising continue and escalate... let (Defence Minister Yitzhak) Rabin know we will confront the border patrol with more violence and defeat them, their fate will be no better than that of the army," the leaflets said.

Rejecting U.S. pressure on the Palestine Liberation Organisation to end border raids into Israel from Lebanon, the uprising's leaders lambasted Washington as "the defender of Zionist terror."

"The U.S. administration is still trying to carry out political blackmail against the Palestinians by its one-sided media statements refusing to differentiate between terror and legitimate resistance," the leaflets said.

The communiqué singled out for praise Israel's "Peace Now" Movement which has held rallies against the occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip and urged the government to talk to the PLO.

Israel decided to replace troops with border police in some heavily populated Arab areas, and efforts to project a more moderate image ahead of a visit to Washington by Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir.

The leaflets called for a general strike on March 21 to mark the first anniversary of the U.S. closure of PLO offices in Washington and told Palestinians to send protest telegrams to U.S. officials

here and in the United States.

The leaflet named March 27 as a general strike day.

Troops in Jabalya, the Gaza Strip's largest Palestinian refugee camp, shot and wounded at least three residents in clashes there Tuesday and protesters fled into a U.N. school and clinic, witnesses said.

Police in Arab Jerusalem fired teargas to disperse Palestinian schoolgirls who stoned an Israeli bank and tried to barricade a street, a police spokesman said.

There was no immediate report of injuries or arrests.

A military court is to try two reserve officers accused of mis-

conduct in a shooting incident last year in the West Bank village of Faqu'ah, an army spokesman said.

Troops chasing suspects at an anti-Israel demonstration on May 1 shot dead 22-year-old Yussuf Abu Farah. The platoon commander at a West Bank settler — and his deputy were relieved of duty the same day.

An army inquiry determined that soldiers opened fire from a distance of 200 metres, contravening standing orders because their lives were not in danger.

The spokesman said investigators had yet to establish if shots from the officers' guns killed Farah but the two would stand trial early in April on charges of illegally using their weapons.

If convicted they face a maximum three-year jail term.

The Hebrew-language daily Maariv said the platoon was disbanded after soldiers testified

against their officers, calling the incident "a boar hunt."

Meanwhile an Israeli legislator has called on Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin to provide information on the deaths of 13 Palestinians, including two 12-year-old boys and three prisoners officials said committed suicide.

Parliament member Dedi Zucker, of the Citizens' Rights Movement party, detailed the deaths in a letter sent Monday to Rabin. A copy was made available to the Associated Press.

"When the investigations (into the deaths) are completed and there are results, we will let him know," said Rabin's spokesman Eitan Haber, in response to questions about the letter.

Zucker's letter described the deaths of 13 Palestinian residents of the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. Seven were killed during or after clashes with troops and six died in prison, the letter said.



An Israeli patrol on alert in one of the deserted streets in the occupied Arab territories

## Jordan, Syria to hold trade talks on March 20

AMMAN (Petra) — The Joint Jordanian-Syrian Economic Committee set up by the joint higher committee will hold a meeting in Damascus on March 20 to discuss trade matters and the opening of a Jordanian trade centre in the Syrian capital, according to an announcement here Tuesday.

The announcement said the meeting is being held in implementation of resolutions taken by the higher committee at its recent meeting here and which decided to raise trade between the two

countries to \$200 million, to be shared on equal basis.

Ministry of Industry and Trade Secretary General Mohammad Saqqaf, who will lead Jordan's side to the meeting, said that the Damascus talks will discuss a trade deal of \$60 million for each side as a first consignment in bilateral trade this year.

The Jordanian side includes representatives of the Ministry of Industry and Trade, and the Central Bank of Jordan.

## Iraq reports Iranian ceasefire violations

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq said Tuesday it had returned fire when its Gulf-war foe Iran violated their Aug. 20 U.N.-brokered ceasefire.

"The Iraqis opened fire on our units at the 11th Army Division at 8.13 p.m. last night (23.13 GMT Monday)," the official Iraqi News Agency (INA) said. "Our units had to return the fire..." and the U.N. observers were notified.

Iraq and Iran have reported numerous ceasefire violations along the 1,200 kilometre Gulf warfront since August but few exchanges of fire.

The ceasefire is monitored by a 350-strong force of United Nations observers.

Iraq tortures prisoners

Meanwhile crippled Iraqi prisoners-of-war Tuesday accused Iranian prison guards of torturing Christians and Sunni Muslims to force them to convert to Iran's Shi'ite Islam.

"My colleague Gilbert who was a Christian lost his left eye from a blow by one of the soldiers," charged 68-year-old Jawdat Hassan Al Ani, who said he was held with 400 other Iraqis in a crowded prison near the central Iranian town of Arak.

"At Arak prison, we Sunnis were beaten with cables and tortured severely to convert to (Iran's) Shi'ite sect..." When most of the 3,000 prisoners refused, they were tortured again and again till one of them died and others were crippled," said Mohammed Kamal Al Obeidi, 34.

He said he too lost an eye from torture. The prisoners, recently freed

by Tehran, were among 47 sick or crippled POWs at a news conference organised by the Iraqi Information Ministry.

Iraq last month released 238 POWs shortly after Baghdad freed 255 Iranians captured during the eight-year-long war which ended in a ceasefire last August.

One former Iraqi captive, Adel Hussein Al Kaabi, said the Iraqis injected him with a chemical that made him impotent.

Al-Kaabi said Iranian soldiers opened fire on his colleagues at Tehran's Heshmatiyeh Prison on Feb. 5, 1983, killing 13 and wounding 91.

Another recalled the shooting dead of 25 Iraqi POWs by Iranian guards in prison in the north east town of Gorgan in 1983. More than 100 captives were wounded.

Peace talks to resume in April

Iraq Tuesday repeated a demand that Iraqi troops leave its territory but said it was willing to resume stalled peace talks during the Muslim Ramadan fast next month.

Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati made the offer after sources at the United Nations said Iranian objections to negotiations during the holy month could postpone talks originally set for New York this month.

"To show our goodwill we propose the third week of April to start the talks again," Velayati said in an interview with the Iranian news agency (IRNA).

"I stress again that at this moment there is nothing more important than the withdrawal of Iraqi forces from Iranian territory," he told the agency, monitored in Nicosia.

## OIC expected to condemn Rushdie, insults to Islam

RIYADH (R) — Saudi Arabia said Tuesday it expected Islamic countries to take a more moderate stand than the one called for by Iran.

Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal told a news conference the 46-member Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC), whose foreign ministers are meeting in Riyadh, would discuss an Iranian-sponsored draft resolution dealing with cultural attacks on Islam.

He said Rushdie's book The Satanic Verses had upset Muslim communities throughout the world, which see it as an insult to their religion.

"We are trying to handle it in a way that will serve the interests of these communities, prevent any slander against our religion and ask for the cooperation of other states to prevent any measures that will inflame emotions," Prince Saud said.

But Mohammad Ali Tashkiri, deputy chief of Iran's Islamic Propagation Organisation and head of the Iranian delegation to the conference, told Reuters Islamic states supported a hard-line resolution attacking Western nations and effectively urging Rushdie to be killed.

But other delegates said most OIC members would resist the resolution as it stands, preferring a more general condemnation of Rushdie's work and insults to Islam.

"We are also interested in creating channels of understanding, believing that there exists

diversity of cultures and beliefs in the world, that true knowledge of each other's belief and respect for each other's belief is a cardinal cornerstone in relations between countries," Prince Saud said.

The issue was not mentioned at a Tuesday morning conference session. Afghan rebel leader Gulbuddin Hekmatyar appealed to OIC members to recognise a rebel government formed after last month's Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan.

Delegates said Hekmatyar reiterated earlier remarks that Afghan rebels controlled 95 per cent of Afghan territory and were close to toppling the Soviet-backed government.

Pakistani Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, in a speech to the afternoon session of the conference, denounced the Rushdie novel. He urged the OIC to counter what he called "attempts to deride Muslims and their faith."

Prince Saud told the news conference he welcomed a peace initiative launched during a recent tour of the Middle East by Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze.

OIC Secretary General Hamid Al Gabid of Niger told the same news conference the OIC political committee had already approved 12 resolutions on Palestine, Jerusalem, the Israeli-occupied Syrian Golan Heights and Israeli settlements in occupied Arab land.

## Bush hopes Shamir can make peace moves

WASHINGTON (R) — President Bush Tuesday urged Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir to bring new ideas for peace with the Palestinians when he visits Washington next month.

Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Arens, on the second day of his three-day visit to Washington, earlier gave no hint of a change in policies towards the Palestinians.

Arens met Bush and Secretary of State James Baker Monday and said the U.S. leaders did not ask him to make any changes in Israel's widely criticised effort to suppress a 15-month-old Palestinian uprising in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

There seemed little chance of movement in the Israeli position

before a visit to Washington by Shamir expected in early April.

Bush, in a brief address Tuesday to the B'nai B'rith Anti-Defamation League, said he reassured Arens of the U.S. commitment to Israel as a strategic ally.

Palestinian leaders Tuesday criticised the Bush administration approach to Middle East peace and said protests in the West Bank and Gaza Strip would not stop until Israeli occupation ended.

Hanna Siniora, editor of the Palestinian Arabic newspaper Al Fajr, said U.S. proposals so far "are not what the Palestinian people are wanting to come from Washington."

## Former Israeli commander praises intifada

NEW YORK (AP) — A former Israeli military commander attending the first U.S. meeting between the Palestine Liberation Organisation and Israelis has praised the Palestinian uprising and says the occupied lands should be returned.

"The intifada (uprising) serves as an important means of educating the Israelis," said Matti Peled, a retired general who was in the military command that led Israel's occupation of the West Bank and Gaza in 1967.

He was one of 400 Israelis and Palestinians who attended a three-day symposium, called "The Road to Peace," at Columbia University. The symposium ended Monday.

"I applaud women, boys and men who go unarmed and face Israeli forces," said Peled, the head of the Council for Israeli-Palestinian Peace, a group whose symbol is an Israeli flag joined to a Palestinian one.

"We can give the land back, rather than suppressing a whole

people for more than 20 years," he said.

Nabil Shaath, the chairman of the Political Committee of the Palestine National Council (PNC), said the PLO was committed to Yasser Arafat's pledge to renounce terrorism — a U.S. condition for a dialogue with the group.

"Probably some of us felt that one had to fight terrorism with terrorism. That is, the hijacking of planes and so on," he said.

"Many Palestinian groups did go into them... There was a reassessment as to how much hijacking a plane would really bring about sympathy... we felt more and more that we had to take a strong position defying and stopping all acts that attack civilians."

Yair Tzaban, a member of the Knesset from the small Mapam Party that supports what he called the "Israeli peace camp," criticised the United States for moving too slowly on the Middle East peace process.

"I think the problem with

(President) Bush and (Secretary of State James) Baker nowadays is that they think they have enough time and we are afraid there is not enough time."

"Arafat is like a cyclist, either he goes forward or backward. If he stands still he will fall. The intifada cannot last forever in the same fashion, extremists can use the standstill, fundamentalists can use it," said Tzaban.

The symposium participants also made the following recommendations:

— Israel should withdraw from the occupied lands.

— Palestinians and Israelis should mutually recognise equal national rights within recognised and secure borders.

— Middle East settlement should include a solution for Palestinian refugees.

— Differences should be resolved through negotiations at an international peace conference, with the PLO representing the Palestinians.

— A moratorium on all acts of terrorism should be declared. Shulamit Aloni, a member of the Knesset from the Labour Party, said the only solution to what she called "a Palestinian diaspora" was "to create two states for two people."

"For peace, we need partition and we hope the Palestinian refugees will come back and return to their homeland," she said. "If you read the new (Bush) administration proposal, you will see they did not understand what's going on. What they want is the status quo."

"The occupation started for mystical reasons, and eventually economic interests took over," said Peled, who retired from the Israeli army in 1969. "It was a 'deluxe' occupation, because the Palestinian lands became a market for \$2 billion worth of Israeli goods."

"I see no point in the occupation. It is only hatred, trouble, ugliness."

## Israel will have to talk to PLO — Weizman

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — Science Minister Ezer Weizman, one of the architects of Israel's peace treaty with Egypt, said Tuesday Israel would have to negotiate with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

Defying the national unity government's policy guidelines, which rule out talks with the PLO, Weizman told foreign correspondents only the PLO could deliver a peace settlement in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"Willy-nilly, whether we like it or not... we'll have to sit down, and I think we will sit down, and I'm willing to sit down with the PLO, with (Yasser) Arafat at its head and talk business with them about how to live together," Weizman said.

He said U.S. Secretary of State James Baker was already moving Israeli leaders towards indirect talks with the PLO.

Hardline Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and Foreign Minister Moshe Arens, who is visiting Washington this week, have ruled out any U.S. mediation with the

PLO. They have vowed never to negotiate with the movement.

Weizman indirectly criticised Israeli leaders' dismissal of an offer by Arafat to come to Jerusalem for peace talks, following in the footsteps of the late Egyptian President Anwar Sadat.

He noted that many Israelis had believed Sadat's trip was a trick and the armed forces chief of staff at the time had wanted to mobilise army reservists. Instead, the trip proved to be the first step to Israel's only peace treaty with an Arab state.

Weizman said Israel had squandered the opportunity to implement Palestinian autonomy in the early 1980s, after signing the peace treaty with Egypt, and could no longer hope to find an alternative leadership to the PLO in the occupied territories.

A PLO-backed Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories is now in its 16th month. At least 400 Palestinians have been killed since the uprising started in December 1987.

"The most important thing is who is the authority on the other side. Who can sign on the dotted line and deliver?... The PLO are the ones, whether we like it or not," he said.

Weizman said there was a probability that Shamir and Arens would eventually "see the light" and talk to the PLO.

The 64-year-old former air force commander and defence minister, who quit the hawkish Likud Bloc and ultimately joined the more dovish Labour Party, said he would talk to Arafat tomorrow, "if I had the authority to do it."

an Italian newspaper as saying he was ready to go to Jerusalem to talk peace with Israeli leaders, as Egyptian leader Anwar Sadat had done in 1977, if Arab states agreed to his visit.

Rabin also dismissed efforts by a three-member European Community team to mediate in the Arab-Israeli conflict and find a way to end a 15-month Palestinian uprising in the territories.

## Rabin rejects Arafat offer of talks

PARIS (R) — Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin has rejected PLO leader Yasser Arafat's offer to visit Jerusalem for peace talks with Israeli leaders.

Rabin, in an interview published Tuesday, also said Israel believed there was a growing gap between Arafat and Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"I see a wider and wider gulf between Palestinians from here

(the territories) and those from (PLO headquarters in) Tunis who live in sumptuous villas and five-star hotels," he told the French daily Le Figaro.

Rabin dismissed Arafat's offer to go to Jerusalem as "media posturing" and said the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) must first demonstrate a commitment to end what he called "terrorism."

Arafat was quoted Sunday by

Bombardments kill at least 33 people

# Artillery duels rock Beirut

BEIRUT (R) — Artillery duels thundered across Beirut's 'green line' Tuesday as Lebanon plunged into its bloodiest sectarian strife for two years.

A military spokesman in west Beirut said at least 33 civilians, including children on their way to school, were killed by the barrage.

In apparent retaliation, gunners on the western side opened up with artillery and tank fire. The Falangist-run Voice of Lebanon Radio said that "random shellfire is pouring on Falangist-held residential areas."

Casualties were not immediately available from the Falangist side because heavy shelling kept ambulances and rescue teams from venturing out. The fighting is the first major battle between the military and civilian governments which have competed for power since parliament failed to elect a new president last September.

Although civil war has been going on for almost 14 years, the larger conflict has for about two years taken second place to power struggles within various groups.

As the shelling spread Tuesday, Beirut shook to the thunder

of explosions. Smoke and fire were rising between houses in both sectors. Residents covered in corridors and basements of buildings as shells rained around them.

Security sources said shells slammed into army positions in the suburb of Yaze where Major-General Michel Aoun, the army commander and head of the Falangist side, has his headquarters.

The renewed conflict sprang from Aoun's decision last week to send patrol boats to blockade illegal ports along the Lebanese coastline including those south of Beirut where his government has no effective authority on land.

Opposition leaders, who recognise only the rival administration of acting Prime Minister Selim Hoss, vowed to resist. Their militia fiefdoms south of Beirut depend on the illegal harbours for funds, food and fuel.

Radio stations on both sides of the "green line" urged civil defence workers and rescue teams

to head to the shelled areas, saying that wounded civilians lay sprawled on the streets or were trapped under fire.

Voice of Lebanon, in east Beirut, said that "a belt of fire" is ringing Falangist-held areas.

The Sunni Muslim radio Voice of the Homeland said shells struck the Middle East Hospital in west Beirut, a few blocks from Syrian Military Intelligence Headquarters.

Shells also fell near the Soviet embassy in the western sector and into the grounds of the American University of Beirut Hospital, starting fires near a nurses' dormitory.

A doctor said at least 15 cars caught fire. Hospital workers rushed to the scene with fire extinguishers.

Six fruit peddlers were hit when a shell crashed near them in west Beirut.

"My six brothers are in the hospital. I know nothing about them. I just know that they were hit. I don't know if they will live or not," said Hassan Syala, a taxi driver, who was sobbing.

Lebanon committee meets March 16

Meanwhile an Arab League

spokesman said Tuesday, a team of Arab foreign ministers mediating in Lebanon's constitutional crisis will meet in Tunis on March 26 to prepare a report on their work so far.

The ministers, from Kuwait, Jordan, Sudan, Tunisia, Algeria and the United Arab Emirates, have had two rounds of talks with Lebanese leaders, in Tunis and then in Kuwait, and a third was expected to take place in Kuwait on March 17 and 18.

The chairman, Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah of Kuwait, has postponed that meeting indefinitely and the committee is unlikely to meet more Lebanese leaders until after the Tunis meeting on March 26, the spokesman said.

The report will go to the Arab League Council, which is meeting at the League's Tunis headquarters for three days from March 27, he added.

The ministers have so far met Lebanon's military government leader Michel Aoun and acting Premier Selim Hoss, the Shi'ite Muslim speaker of parliament and the spiritual leaders of most of the country's religious sects.

The next meeting was expected to be with the politicians and militia leaders.

# Helicopters arrive in embattled Afghan city

PESHAWAR (R) — About two dozen government helicopters flew into Jalalabad Tuesday as Western-backed rebels said they had made gains in their assault on the eastern Afghan city.

The transport helicopters arrived early in the day amid renewed heavy fighting around the city, guerrilla sources in neighbouring Pakistan said.

They said the guerrillas had shot down one of the helicopters with a U.S.-supplied Stinger missile. Independent confirmation of the report was not available.

Two of the seven rebel parties based in Pakistan reported that an ammunition dump hit by guerrilla shelling in central Jalalabad had exploded Monday night.

The Soviet-backed government of President Najibullah said two days ago that it had repelled the guerrilla offensive launched a week earlier to capture Jalalabad as a possible base for a rebel government.

But the guerrilla sources, speaking in the north eastern Pakistani city of Peshawar, said the rebels had overrun more government posts Monday after-

noon. Government jets retaliated with heavy bombing, ending a lull which lasted for most of Monday. Some of the bombs hit the airport perimeter, the sources said.

Some guerrilla commanders in Nangrahar province, of which Jalalabad is the capital, thought the helicopter fleet might have come to evacuate senior government officials and leaders of the ruling People's Democratic Party, the sources said.

But others said it had probably brought reinforcements and supplies. The airport, the focus of heavy fighting over the past week, has been out of action for fixed-wing aircraft for several days, the sources said.

The Jalalabad fighting has forced thousands of Afghans to flee to Pakistan, which already has about three million Afghan war refugees. Hundreds of injured people have also arrived in Peshawar.

"I will go back tomorrow if I am alright today," a wounded guerrilla told reporters in a Peshawar hospital.

# Fire guts Egypt's television building

CAIRO (R) — Fire gutted the top two storeys of Egypt's state-run television headquarters Tuesday and at least four people were taken to hospital with slight injuries, officials said.

A television security guard was trapped on the roof for two hours but later reached the street, where thousands watched the drama behind riot police cordons.

He emerged shocked, his face blackened, but was apparently unharmed.

Firemen directed hoses from extension cranes but water jets fell short of flames flicking from the 27th and 28th floors of one of Cairo's tallest buildings, topped by a giant reception and transmission antenna.

The television was not broadcasting when the fire started around 6:30 a.m. (0430 GMT). Radio Cairo, which transmits from the same building, went off the air for 20 minutes and then resumed programmes.

There was no immediate word on the cause of the fire which broke out before hundreds of civil servants and broadcasters arrived for work.

But later as investigators sifted through the charred remains, the government said the fire was started by a fault in wiring away from the main radio and television cables.

Interior Minister Zaki Badr told reporters: "I completely and flatly rule out arson or sabotage."

It gutted floors containing housing reception rooms, radio monitoring equipment and archives, officials said.

The floors are also believed to house information ministry offices.

# 'Uprising isolated Israel'

(Continued from page 1)

reflected in the USA's acceptance to initiate dialogue with the PLO, "a dialogue which we hope will continue and will move from the format to the content," he said.

"The realistic and constructive position of the Palestinian leadership, signals the clear Arab position vis-a-vis the comprehensive peaceful settlement," Qasem noted.

He added that all obstacles have now been removed from the road to the international peace conference, except the Israeli obstacle, removal of which hinges on the new American administration. Qasem voiced hope that the U.S. will assume its role in the peace process to solve the Middle East problem.

However, Qasem said, such a peaceful solution cannot be achieved except through an international peace conference under the supervision of the United Nations, to be attended by the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council and the parties involved in the conflict, including the PLO, the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, and along the principles of the U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

Qasem stressed that the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) and the Union of Maghreb States, which have recently been formed, are tributaries to the joint Arab and Islamic efforts.

These two new alliances, together with the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) constitute new pillars of the Arab and Islamic might.

Qasem pointed out to the formation of the two new councils as the most remarkable achievements made recently in the Arab World.

He also referred to other achievements made during the past year, including the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan, Iran's acceptance of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 598, and the subsequent ceasefire which followed almost nine years of frenzied fighting.

Qasem pointed out to the efforts made by the six-member Arab ministerial committee to solve the Lebanese crisis, and voiced hope that such a solution will be achieved.

Qasem denounced the apartheid policy in South Africa, and called on the OIC to support the peoples of South Africa and Namibia, to help them achieve independence and sovereignty.

Concluding his speech Qasem called on the OIC to undertake a comprehensive review of the organisation's work, with a view to developing its performance and efficiency and to avoid duplication of work that obstructs its activities.

# MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

## London suspends Beirut visa service

LONDON (R) — Britain said Monday it would close its visa office in west Beirut for an indefinite period for security reasons. A Foreign Office spokesman said the operation, which employs only locally-engaged staff, would be suspended from Tuesday "until further notice." Visa and consular services in east Beirut will remain open, he added. The move follows Britain's March 8 warning to its nationals to leave or avoid Lebanon after Iran cut diplomatic ties with Britain for refusing to condemn novelist Salman Rushdie. Rushdie's book "The Satanic Verses" has outraged Muslims worldwide and Iranian spiritual leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini called for his death for blasphemy against Islam. Groups holding Western hostages in Beirut have vowed vengeance against the Indian-born British author and his supporters.

## Israelis unveil another weapon

TEL AVIV (R) — A sniper's eyepiece of his prey can now be shared with senior officers thanks to a revolutionary gunsmith which transmits a video image of the target, Israeli newspapers reported Tuesday. The sniper-C3 (command, control and communication) system, enabling army commanders and police chiefs to coordinate five or more sharpshooters, was developed by the Elbit Defence Electronics Company for the Israeli army. The U.S. Marine Corps is currently testing the system, which costs more than \$100,000 per unit, Elbit President Emmanuel Gil told Israeli defence reporters. The company said the televised gunsmith monitoring system could revolutionise the fight by enabling commanders to plan a more effective assault. It could eliminate situations where more than one sniper fires at the same target. The system can also be used on the battlefield to coordinate tank gunners and soldiers operating anti-tank missiles.

## Moroccan kills relative in Paris

SURESNES, France (AP) — A young man opened fire on two relatives at a school in this Paris suburb Monday, killing his half-sister and seriously wounding his half-brother before killing himself, officials said. Samir Doulim shot Abil Jbali and Jbali's sister Iham Jbali, both in their 20s, before turning his pistol on himself, police reported. Abil and Iham Jbali were rushed from the school, Paul Langevin Lycee, to two Paris hospitals. And hospital officials said the young woman died hours later. All three are of Moroccan origin. Assistant Prosecutor Michele Requin said that because the gunman was dead, there would be no criminal investigation opened that might explain his motives. The French news agency Agence France-Press (AFP) quoted unidentified police sources as saying the argument was "a family quarrel, possibly of a religious character."

## Soviet reporters visit Saudi Arabia

RIYADH (R) — Saudi Arabia has for the first time allowed two Soviet political journalists to enter the anti-communist kingdom. Cairo-based Vladimir Belakov, from the Pravda daily, and Bogatyrev Alexandre, representing the TASS news agency, are in Riyadh to attend the three-day Islamic Conference Organisation's (ICO) foreign ministers' meeting. The Saudi decision to issue visas to the journalists is a further sign of improving links between Riyadh and Moscow which do not have diplomatic ties. Moscow has gradually expanded its ties with conservative Gulf states, setting up embassies in Abu Dhabi, Qatar and Oman since 1985. Kuwait has had diplomatic relations with Moscow since the 1960s but Bahrain and Saudi Arabia have yet to follow suit.

## Singapore bans Rushdie book

SINGAPORE (R) — Multi-racial Singapore has banned British author Salman Rushdie's novel "The Satanic Verses," saying it "denigrates a major religion and its prophet." A government statement Tuesday said Singapore "cannot allow the import and circulation of a book which is considered blasphemous by and offensive to the Muslim community." About 15 per cent of Singapore's 2.6 million population are Muslim Malays, 76 per cent are of Chinese descent and nine per cent are ethnic Indians and others.

## Iranian women hit Turkey veil ban

NICOSIA (AP) — Women students marched through Tehran Monday to protest a ban on Islamic dress for students at universities in neighbouring Turkey, the official Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) reported. The agency, monitored in Nicosia, said the students delivered a resolution to the Majlis, the Iranian parliament, calling for Iranian diplomats in Turkey to press for the ban to be lifted. They warned that "in case the ruling is not repealed any visit by ranking Turkish officials to Tehran will face protest demonstrations," the university students warned. The constitutional court in Turkey, a secular Muslim state, last week revoked a parliamentary decision in December permitting Islamic veil for women at universities. The ruling provoked demonstrations by Muslim fundamentalists in Ankara, Istanbul and other Turkish cities in which dozens of protestors were detained by police. The women protestors said their Islamic beliefs require them to cover their heads in mixed company and that the ban is a restriction on democratic freedoms.

## 2,000-year-old town found in Iran

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP) — Iranian archaeologists have unearthed a sprawling 2,000-year-old town at Shustar in southwestern Khuzestan province, Tehran Television has reported. The state-run television, monitored in Nicosia, said Monday the excavators found four underground crypts built of mud-brick containing clay coffins with elaborate relief designs that were placed on wooden biers. The television, monitored in Nicosia, showed film of adult skeletons buried along with simple jewellery and household goods including clay water-jugs and cups. Coins found at the site were struck during the Parthian Dynasty, which ruled in present-day Iran from 250 B.C. to 226 A.D.

The British Council

BRITISH HIGHER EDUCATION WEEK

17 - 24 March 1989

ITINERARY

Sat 18	JORDAN UNIVERSITY
Sun 19	YARMOUK UNIVERSITY
Mon 20	JORDAN UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
Tues 21	MUTAH UNIVERSITY

For further information, please contact the Public Relations Office or the Deanship of Student Affairs at each University.

Thurs 23

Open Day (2 - 7 p.m.)

Representatives from the following institutions will be available to answer questions:

- University of Aberdeen
- Bolton Institute of Higher Education
- University of Glasgow
- University of Kent
- University of Nottingham
- Trent Polytechnic

\* EXHIBITION of higher education materials and how to study in Britain

\* INFORMATION on pre-university courses, undergraduate & postgraduate degrees

\* COUNSELLING for those interested in studying in Britain

For more information please contact:-  
Tel: 636147/8, 624686, 638194

ALL ARE WELCOME

المجلس الثقافي البريطاني

أسبوع التعليم العالي البريطاني

١٧ - ٢٤ آذار ١٩٨٩

البرنامج

السبت ١٨	جامعة الأردن
الأحد ١٩	جامعة اليرموك
الاثنين ٢٠	جامعة العلوم والتكنولوجيا الأردنية
الثلاثاء ٢١	جامعة مؤتة

لمزيد من المعلومات الرجاء الاتصال بدائرة العلاقات العامة أو عمادة شؤون الطلبة في كل من الجامعات

الخميس ٢٣

يوم مفتوح للقاء الطلبة مع ممثلي المؤسسات التعليمية البريطانية (٧ مساءً - ٢)

لمزيد من المعلومات الرجاء الاتصال بالمجلس الثقافي البريطاني: تليفون: ٦٣٦١٤٧/٨، ٦٢٤٦٨٦، ٦٣٨١٩٤

المجلس الثقافي البريطاني

يوم مفتوح للقاء الطلبة مع ممثلي المؤسسات التعليمية البريطانية (٧ مساءً - ٢)

المجلس الثقافي البريطاني

يوم مفتوح للقاء الطلبة مع ممثلي المؤسسات التعليمية البريطانية (٧ مساءً - ٢)

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME ONE

15:30	Koran
15:45	Children's programmes
17:15	Programme on plants
17:30	Out of World
18:00	News summary in Arabic
18:45	Cairo News Message
18:55	Arabic series
19:00	Local programme
19:30	Common mistakes
19:40	Programme review
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Arabic series
21:30	Programme review
21:40	Wrestling
22:00	Varities programme
23:00	News summary in Arabic
23:10	Programme (contd.)

PROGRAMME TWO

17:45	Musique de Coeur
19:00	News in French
19:15	Aujourd'hui en Jordanie
19:30	News in Hebrew
20:30	News in Arabic
20:35	Life with Lucy
21:10	Doc. Vision of Britain
22:30	News in English
22:35	"The Man Who Lived at the Risk"

PRAYER TIMES

04:26 Fajr

05:43 (Sunrise) Duha

11:45	Dhuhr
15:08	'Asr
17:46	Maghreb
19:03	Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swifish, Tel. 810740

Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785

St. Joseph Church Tel. 624390

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623341

Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 628543

Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775251

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751

Armenian International Church Tel. 685326

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295

Reformed Congregation Tel. 822605

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817, 821264

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

# DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

It will be cold and rainy at times and winds will be westerly moderate to fresh. In Aqaba, it will be partly cloudy with possible scattered showers, and winds will be southerly moderate to fresh and seas calm.

Min./Max. temp.

Amman	3 / 10
Aqaba	12 / 20
Deserts	2 / 13
Jordan Valley	8 / 17

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 9, Aqaba 21. Humidity readings: Amman 95 per cent, Aqaba 75 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:

Dr. Mohammad Khalil	896294
Dr. Hisham Kanana	790286
Dr. Ibrahim Abu Hamid	677436
Dr. Yabara Abdul Rahim	736074
First pharmacy	661912
Ferdows pharmacy	718336
Al Ascan pharmacy	637053
Naioukh pharmacy	623672
Al Salem pharmacy	636730
Yacoub pharmacy	644945
Shameisat pharmacy	637660

IRBID:

Dr. Mounir Al Sheikh Saleh	(-)
Al Shama's pharmacy	985236

ZARQA:

Dr. Tariq Hijawi	(-)
Khalifeh pharmacy	985417

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department	661111
Civil Defence Emergency	630341
Rescue	192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade	62209093
Blood Bank	775121
Highway Police	843402
Traffic Police	66639091
Public Security Department	650000 / 685111
Hotel Complaints	602800
Price Complaints	661176
Water and Sewerage	897467
Amman Municipality	773111
Complaints	773111
Telephone Information (directory assistance)	12
Arabic Calls	17
Central Amman Telephone	623101
Repairs	623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs	661101
Jordan Television	773111
Radio Jordan	774111

Water Authority 680100

Jordan Electricity Authority 815615

Electric Power Company 636381

RJ Flight Information 08-53200

Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:

Hussein Medical Centre	813813/32					
Khalifeh Maternity, J. Amn.	642816					
Malher. J. Amman	642412					
Malher. J. Amman	636140					
Palestine, Shamsuni	6641714					
Shameisat Hospital	669131					
University Hospital	845845					
Al-Musharraf Hospital	6672719					
The Islamic, Abdali	66612757					
Al-Ahli, Abdali	6641646					
Italian, Al-Muhajirien	7710103					
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh	77511126					
Army, Marka	89161115					
Queen Alia Hospital	60224050					
Amal Hospital	674155					
ZARQA: <tr><td>Zarga Govt. Hospital</td><td>(09)983323</td></tr> <tr><td>Zarga National Hospital</td><td>(09)991071</td></tr> <tr><td>Ibn Sina Hospital</td><td>(09)986732</td></tr>	Zarga Govt. Hospital	(09)983323	Zarga National Hospital	(09)991071	Ibn Sina Hospital	(09)986732
Zarga Govt. Hospital	(09)983323					
Zarga National Hospital	(09)991071					
Ibn Sina Hospital	(09)986732					

IRBID:

Princess Bagma Hospital	(02)755555	
Greek Catholic Hospital	(02)772275	
Ibn Al Nafies Hospital	(02)247100	
AQABA: <tr><td>Princess Haya Hospital</td><td>(03)314111</td></tr>	Princess Haya Hospital	(03)314111
Princess Haya Hospital	(03)314111	

MARKET PRICES

Upperflower price in file per kg.

Apple	300 / 400
Banana	350 / 300
Banana (Mukassar)	300 / 250
Broad beans	160 / 120
Cabbage	110 / 80
Carrots	220 / 160
Caulliflower	140 / 100
Cucumbers	420 / 360
Eggplant	180 / 120
Garlic	250 / 200
Grapefruit	360 / 320
Lemon	460 / 400
Letttuce (per one)	120 / 100
Marrow (large)	250 / 200
Marrow (small)	370 / 300
Orange (Shamouni)	460 / 420
Orange (local)	340 / 300
Onion (dry)	250 / 200
Onion (green)	130 / 100
Peas	400 / 300
Pepper (hot)	640 / 600
Pepper (sweet)	260 / 200
Porato	320 / 280
Spinach	80 / 50
Tomatoes	140 / 100

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (06)53200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

09:10	Damascus (RJ)
09:30	Aqaba (RJ)
09:30	Cairo (RJ)
09:45	Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
10:00	Dhahran, Kuwait (RJ)
12:30	Larnaca (RJ)
16:20	Los Angeles, Chicago, Vienna (RJ)
17:00	Riyadh (RJ)
17:30	New York, Vienna (RJ)
17:45	London, Geneva (RJ)
17:55	Brussels, Frankfurt (RJ)
18:30	Madrid, Rome (RJ)
18:40	Paris, Belgrade (RJ)
09:20	Baghdad (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

09:35	Cairo (MS)
11:20	Rome (AZ)
12:15	Sana'a, Jeddah (TY)
12:15	Baghdad (IA)
13:40	Kuwait (KU)
13:45	London, Geneva (RJ)
14:10	Istanbul, Ankara (TK)
15:00	Jeddah (SV)
16:35	Tunis (TU)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

07:30	Aqaba (RJ)
10:30	Aqaba (RJ)
11:00	Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
11:30	Riyadh (RJ)
11:30	Tunis, Casablanca (RJ)
12:00	Geneva, London (RJ)
12:00	Calesta (RJ)
19:15	Kuwait, Dhahran (RJ)
19:45	Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
20:10	Baghdad (RJ)
20:15	Jeddah (RJ)
20:20	Cairo (RJ)
20:30	Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
21:00	Damascus (RJ)
22:00	Baghdad (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

06:30	Cairo, London (BA)
08:15	Beirut (ME)
08:35	Larnaca, Zurich (SR)
10:20	Cairo (AZ)
12:10	Rome (AZ)
13:30	Jeddah, Sana'a (TY)
15:00	Kuwait (KU)
15:00	Tripoli (LV)
16:10	Dhahran (TK)
16:00	Medina, Jeddah (SV)
17:35	Kuwait (KU)
21:35	Karachi (PK)

## Tarawneh in Syria to discuss supply affairs

DAMASCUS (Petra, J.T.) — Minister of Supply Fayez Tarawneh arrived in Damascus Tuesday on a three-day visit to Syria to discuss Jordanian-Syrian cooperation in supply affairs.

Tarawneh stated before his departure that his talks with the Syrian officials, including Prime Minister Mahmoud Al Zou'bi, will focus on the exchange of foodstuffs between the two countries on the basis of barter trade.

Jordan's cooperation with Syria in implementation of resolutions passed by the Jordanian-Syrian Higher Committee held in Amman last month and greater scope of cooperation will also be discussed during the visit, Tarawneh said.

Tarawneh is accompanied by Minister of Agriculture's Secretary General Salem Al Lawzi and the director of the ministry's warehouses department Ahmad Hindawi.

Before his departure for Syria, Tarawneh chaired a meeting of the Supply Council to review the supply law and the council's duties with regard to the country's supply policies. At the meeting held Monday evening the minister outlined the Ministry of Supply's efforts to provide sufficient foodstuffs to meet the needs of the country and briefed the council members on the government's directives on matters related to food supplies which, he



Fayez Tarawneh

said, should be made available in quantities that would suffice the country for several months.

Tarawneh also reviewed the Ministry of Supply's efforts which are coordinated with the ministries of agriculture and industry and trade with regard to local production, and endeavours to provide sufficient foodstuffs during the month of Ramadan.

He said that the council will be holding its meetings on a monthly basis to review the country's supply policies.

The council groups representatives of the Ministries of Supply, Industry and Trade, Health, Customs as well as the Armed Forces and representatives of the private sector.

## ICO meets Saturday

AMMAN (Petra) — The Islamic Cities Organisation (ICO) will open its fifth general meeting here Saturday with the participation of delegates from various member states.

The three day meeting will review the organisation's activities over the past two years and will endorse its budget for the coming two years, according to an announcement here Monday.

It said that the participants will endorse amendments to the organisation's statutes which will open the way for eight instead of four cities from each member state to join the organisation's membership. The delegates will also decide on the next general conference's date and venue, the announcement said.

During the conference, it added, there will be a seminar during which several working papers will be discussed covering numbering of streets, postal services in Islamic cities, and reorganisation issues.

Also during the conference, the ICO will organise an exhibition at the Royal Cultural Centre displaying samples of architectural designs in a number of Islamic cities.

The Greater Municipality of Amman said it will also hold an exhibition in cooperation with local companies to display computers and electronic equipment used in designing buildings. The exhibition will be held at the King Abdullah Complex.

## Modernising universities

IRBID (Petra, J.T.) — A three day symposium on modernising university administration is due to open at Yarmouk University Saturday with the participation of representatives of Arab universities in Jordan and four Arab countries.

The symposium, organised in cooperation with the Amman-based Association of Arab Universities will review 20 working papers submitted by Jordan and the other delegations dealing with the planning, organising and financing procedures at Arab universities, according to Dr. Zuhair Sabbagh, chairman of committee preparing for the symposium. Sabbagh said that the delegates will identify administrative problems and discuss academic issues encountered by their institutions and their impact on current social, cultural, political and economic developments.

The symposium will try to lay down principles for modernisation at universities to help them carry on with their duties and provide better services to the students, Sabbagh added. He said that management modernisation has become essential at all educational institutions that are trying to attain better higher standards.

## Iraq, Jordan discuss cooperatives

AMMAN (Petra) — A delegation from the Iraqi Cooperatives Federation arrived here Tuesday on a several day visit to Jordan and talks with officials on prospects for bilateral cooperation in cooperatives.

The delegation will hold meetings with the Jordan Cooperatives Organisation (JCO) director and his aides to discuss cooperatives-related issues and activities as well as subjects that would be taken up by a general meeting of cooperatives in the Arab World which will open in Cairo in the first week of April. The delegation members are also due to tour a number of cooperatives in the Kingdom to examine their activities and programmes.

## NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

**SYRIAN MINISTER:** The visiting Syrian Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research Kamal Sharaf Tuesday visited the Royal Jordanian Geographic Centre where he was briefed on the centre's duties and tasks by its Director General Uqlah Al Duheimat. Sharaf and the accompanying delegation toured the various sections of the centre and watched closely how the various kinds of maps are prepared. They were also briefed on the remote sensing technologies. The minister, accompanied by his Jordanian counterpart Nasseruddin Al Assad also visited the Martyr's Monument in Amman and toured its various sections. They were briefed on the monument and the military museum contained therein, by the Armed Forces Moral Guidance Department director (Petra).

**ZAKAT:** Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Minister Abdul Aziz Al Khayyat Saturday opens the second charitable bazaar, held by the Women Committee for Zakat, in cooperation with the University of Jordan's Islamic Cultural Centre (J.T.).

**MARKETING:** Agriculture Minister Yousef Hamdan Al Jabr Tuesday visited the Agricultural Marketing Corporation where he was briefed by its Director General Fahd Azar on its duties and the steps it has taken to put an end to the marketing problems. Al Jabr called for a clear marketing policy and noted the role of the AMC in avoiding marketing problems and suffocations (Petra).

**HEALTH:** Health Minister Zuhair Malhas will take part in the five day meeting of the Council of Arab Health ministers and its executive bureau meeting, which will start in the Libyan capital Tripoli Saturday (Petra).

**LETTER:** Yarmouk University President Mohammad Hamdan Tuesday received a letter of thanks from secretary general of the Association of Arab Universities Mohammad Faraj Al Dugheim, who voiced the AAU's appreciation for the Jordanian universities for hosting the association's general secretariat and for their continued support for the AAU's general secretariat.

**TRADE:** The General Federation of Jordanian Chambers of Commerce Tuesday held a meeting under the chairmanship of Mohammad Asfour, during which the federation's executive board discussed the commercial sector's preparations to cope with the economic adjustment phase. They also discussed means of reviving the private sector's role and prospects for concluding agreements with other countries, in a bid to enhance economic cooperation and to increase the volume of trade and Jordanian exports. The board also reviewed the steps so far taken to set up the Jordanian-Omani fish marketing company (Petra).

## More hashish seized

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Public Security Department (PSD) Tuesday announced the seizure of 64 kilograms of hashish which were found in a hiding place in a desert area east of Mafrq. A PSD statement said that the drugs were discovered by accident by a citizen who reported the matter to the PSD.

On March 8, the PSD announced that it had smashed a drug trafficking ring, the biggest so far in the country. PSD Director General Abdul Hadi Al Majali said that two and a half tonnes of hashish and 300,000 captagon pills with a total street value of JD 2 million, were seized in the past two months.

Majali said that eight Jordanians, 12 Saudis and 25 Syrians were involved in the drug trafficking operations.

## Madaba gets comprehensive school

MADABA (Petra, J.T.) — The Ministry of Education has awarded a tender to a local construction company for the construction of three comprehensive schools in Madaba at the cost of JD 1.5 million, according to the director of education department here Deeb Al Majali.



Minister of Social Development Fawaz Touqan Tuesday honours one of 30 women for their services to the country (Petra photo)

## Foster mothers honoured

AMMAN (Petra) — A group of 30 Jordanian foster mothers were honoured here Tuesday at a ceremony held under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Noor and attended by Minister of Social Development Fawaz Touqan and senior officials.

Dr. Touqan presented awards to the 30 mothers, selected from various public sectors in Jordan and commended for their work and their services to the Jordanian society.

The ceremony was held in the course of Jordan's celebration of the International Women's Day, an annual event observed in Jordan with cultural activities and lectures.

Dr. Touqan delivered an address on the occasion, conveying to the 30 women greetings and congratulations from Her Majesty Queen Noor, and he also

voiced his appreciation to the Queen for patronising the ceremony and for her keen interest in and continued encouragement and support for Jordanian women's socio-economic activities.

Honouring of foster mothers, the minister said, is an honouring for Jordanian families of which the women constitute the backbone, providing valuable service for the local society and the country as a whole.

The minister reviewed

women's contributions to the national economy over the years and referred to women's share in socio-economic activities in Arab societies. He praised the efforts of foster mothers who, he described, as serving as a symbol of an inexhaustible source of constant giving. The minister paid tribute to the Arab women in the Israeli-occupied Arab lands who, he said, have been instrumental in achieving great success. Touqan also conveyed Queen Noor's greetings to the Palestinian women.

Among the other speakers at the ceremony was Mrs. Hafsa Al Bashir, president of the General Union of Jordanian Women.

The ceremony was attended by Ministry of Social Development officials, wives of cabinet members and other invited guests.

## To live free or to die

AMMAN (J.T.) — Eric Eychemme is well known by the public of Amman. This French actor presented in 1985 "Rhinceros" by Ionesco, one of his one man shows. Since that time, playing prestigious authors like: Rimbaud, Camus, Moliere, he presented the French culture all over the world.

But his new show is different: "To live free or to die" specially created to commemorate the "Bicentenaire de la Revolution Francaise" is not any more a one man show but a genuine play, including several roles played by a unique actor.

Eychemme bet consists of bringing alone to life the French revolution, it could seem incredible: he performs it successfully!

From the convocation of the states general to the death of Robespierre and Saint-Just, he moves the public from Versailles to Paris, from the court to the street, passing by the National Assembly.

Using a unique chair as a scenery, he runs from one role to another, giving each character special intonation and attitude in order to create the illusion of a complete casting.

Noble or bourgeois, common woman or courtesan, Eric Eychemme, authors and actor plays with the same talent and conviction more than 120 different roles.

Famous personages of "History of French Revolution" of Jules Michelet, from which the play is drawn, or imaginary personages, all of them make us revive the period from 1789 to 1794 through his more famous episodes and delicious anecdotes.



Eric Eychemme plays "to live free or to die" drawn from Jules Michelet's History of French Revolution

In company with Eric Eychemme, the French Revolution lives again with humour. "Vivre libre ou mourir" ("to live free or to die") will be presented at the Royal Cultural Centre Sunday, March 19 at 8 p.m.

## Medical conference

AMMAN (Petra) — A three-day meeting by the Arab American Medical Society will open here Thursday under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Noor.

The conference which was organised by the National Medical Institution, the University of Jordan and the Medical Society of Arab Americans will review a number of medical papers dealing with various branches of medicine ranging from cardiac surgery to breast cancer and children diseases.

Taking part in the meeting are Jordanian physicians and specialists employed in Jordanian medical centres and hospitals and members of the Arab American Society. The society members attending the conference will be taken on a tour of archaeological and tourist sites in the Kingdom.



Abu Taleb receives British MP

Army Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Fathi Abu Taleb Tuesday received in his office British Member of Parliament Dr. John Gilbert with whom he reviewed Jordanian-British relations and the situation in the Middle East.

## 7 Jordanian artists exhibit their skills

## Abstraction is here, in abundance

By Nelly Lama  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The exhibition hall of the Abdul Hamid Shoman Educational and Cultural Centre is the venue of a group exhibition of young Jordanian artists whose styles focus on abstraction.

The influence of international trends of modern art, of the new lines of thought, of the old philosophies and the human drama as seen by playwrights is apparent in their work. This is a result of their studying abroad where they experienced, first hand, the works of the great masters.

Khaled Khreis and his Spanish wife Clara hung their works on opposite sides of the room which, after a study of their works, seemed almost symbolic, for the style of one is independent of the other and the only factor common to both their works is the use of "natural" colours: earth colours (browns, yellows, and blue).

Khaled Khreis started his art education at the University of Hilwan in Cairo and graduated in fine arts and education in 1978. He then went on to study painting in Barcelona, Spain, at the Academy of San Gaudi. He spent his summers in Perugia, Italy, in the Pietro Vanucci Institute where he studied graphics, and in San Gaudi where he studied the fresco technique. From there he went to Mexico and studied serigraphy (silk screen printing) at the Institute of Fine Arts of San Miguel de Allende.

His style seemed to have acquired its abstract character since his early years in Egypt. In Spain, it was the work of great masters such as Tapes, Clave and Miro that influenced him most. Khaled won the Miro award at the contest held as a homage to Picasso and Miro by the Spanish Cultural Centre here. He won the next award, in Spain, as the first among Arab painters.

His work is mainly on cardboard, a medium that allows a

painter vast textural possibilities: by tearing its surface, one can get a dry porous area where paint can be sucked in, creating totally different tones than when applied on a glazed surface. This, as a ground, lends itself to a lot of sensitivity which Khaled seems to have in abundance. His earlier works showed an interest in ancient motifs and symbols. Today his works are mostly placed within a rectangle: a constant feeling of entering through a door prevails. The area within seems remotely linked to the one without.

Within one oval "doorway" Khaled Khreis lays one colour over the other repeatedly, starting with intense hues zigzagged in such a way as to leave part of the background apparent. Gradually overlapped by darker colours, brown and finally black, the work remains crisp and the intermittent white spaces contribute to that. One experiences the feeling of descending to an underground cavern. Khaled uses inks, acrylics and water colours, mixed together or separate. He uses lots of techniques: wet-on-wet, scratching and rubbing. His work holds a certain degree of maturity.

His wife, Clara Khreis, has had the same educational experience. She makes her own colours from natural pigment and fish jelly (a technique formerly used in making icons). She paints using the fresco technique. Since natural pigments do not reach high intensities, most of her rendering is in soft earth colours (yellow being dominant). As a basis for her motifs she looks at wall graffiti and the natural weathering of objects. The basic idea in her paintings is to reproduce the simplest textures, symbols and signs that are witnesses of man's interaction with his environment. As Vanessa Batrouni once put it "Clara champions sidewalk art and the unknown hands that make it." Although utterly ab-

stract some of her works border on sensuality.

Naval El Abdallah Kattan offers a fresh note of geometrical overlapping. Naval started painting in 1974. In 1978 she joined the Academy of Fine Arts in Florence and returned to Amman in 1980 still engrossed in figurative painting. After five latent years, Naval came back to painting and slowly departed from her figurative work (figures and portraits) to a highly geometrical abstract art. This was a real purifying process since her aim now is to create harmonies with the most unlikely elements (be it line or colour). Her gouaches show a sharp sense of observation, a good study of colours, lines and shapes and an insight into the way they pull the viewer's eye around the format.

In the painting she calls "My Tune," suave curves of various alternating colours (shades of red and blue) are interrupted sharply by triangles in shades of blue and lilac. The dynamism and contrast of these two motifs is very well balanced. Similar contrasting moods are apparent in most of her works. In "My Maze" we see a gradation of textures from splattering to "hit and miss" strokes (rendered with a slightly dry brush) and ending with a thick intense mass in front; this obliterating mass represents the blocks that encroach on one's spirit as he/she is faced with the realities of life. "Even in my figurative style figures stood behind windows or were restricted by bars." Naval's best work is "Rooftops" where several thin straight lines run obliquely across the surface framing a grid, a network of dark and light squares that enable the eye to skip and prance around the whole format. The strong diagonal thrust is abated by a fragile splattering of orange and pink.

Naval covers all the potentials of gouache paint, its opaque quality, its tints, its intensity.

She often uses the "stencil" method to create her clean-edged overlappings. She hopes to have a one-woman show in May.

Jamal Ashour is quite an innovative painter in this exhibition. The ground for his paintings is a number of thin vertical panels stuck together to form a semicircular volume, a kind of polyptrich probably inspired by the Florentine renaissance panels, considering that Jamal spent 5 years studying at the Accademia Libera of Florence, observing and interacting with the artists there. He went on to Terrenina where he led an abundant art life, discussions and all. He came back to Jordan in 1985 and joined the Guild of Artists and went on with his artistic creations.

The semicircular ground he creates enables the viewer to see a new vision with every step he makes around it. On those panels he creates an interaction of form and colours. He analyses his theories into mathematical logic: 1 + 9 = 1 that stands for one woman, nine months to form a human, thus creating one uniform whole, his painting. Woman plays a central role in his paintings. "Woman gives me my song," he exclaims as he looks at the designs on his panels. At the top one can see veiled women whose faces are partially masked by shadows. Among them further down appear some nude female figures. Portraits of men looking on questioningly are overlapped by yet another female figure. This painting is like a puzzle, where the more you look the more you see. Yet the only thing he means to portray is the melodramatic situation of woman's slow liberation.

In another panel-painting, he portrays a group of veiled women of all ages, in profile, walking in single file, following... tradition. Among the women is one that looks curiously at the viewer awaiting an explanation. Above

this group which is rendered in dark and medium values of violet, the background shines with a glimmer of hope. He builds this theory of the duality of tradition and liberalism on Shakespeare's choice of characters. In his more abstract paintings a strong impression of female forms is still apparent, the volumes are retained giving his paintings the value of well-studied form.

Ghada Dahdale exhibits two large canvases that are wild examples of informal and gestural art. Wide brushstrokes of intense colour dash across the given space playing havoc with geometrical shapes.

Other more subtle abstract works are mostly composed within a drawn rectangle, wherein she conveys a sense of depth using either light effects or an oblique line that lead your eye into the depths. Their subtle colouring and the central motifs are reminiscent of the works of Paul Klee.

In one of these paintings she frames the rectangle with a rhythmic repetition of squares and coloured dots reminding us vividly of the Cobra Group. We can see here an artist who is not only experimenting, but who is learning from her experiences as well as those of the masters of modern art.

Hazem Al Zu'bi who received his B.F.A. from the Academy of Baghdad, offers us a wide range of ceramics including what he calls a ceramic sculpture, a traditional straw "coffee stool" under which lies a dead bird all rendered in clay and glazed in green and white.

His other pieces are predominantly spherical and seem to have experienced a destructive force, an outburst, a kind of energy that broke loose, after finding its way out of the closed form. Around the opening is a textured area, a wound with scar tissue.

This duality of inner and outer

spaces is seen in other shapes that seem to emit objects from their interior. Out of a traditional jar comes a draped textile, and out of two geometrical towers comes a frothy substance that falls halfway down the outer surface, creating a successful contrast of texture.

He seems to portray what comes to his mind on the spur of the moment. He renders what pleases him most, no philosophical or metaphysical overtones. He uses any colour that seems handy to glaze his artifacts, ranging from matt to moiré to very shiny glazes. In glazing some of his pottery works, he uses a basic colour to cover the whole structure then an overlay that is put down in the dripping technique, causing the different colours to overlap and mingle.

Hazem taught previously at the Haya Arts Centre. He is presently tutoring a number of deaf and dumb students whose works he finds amazing. He is starting a new course in ceramics shortly.

The sculptures of Kuram Al Nimri are dispersed between the paintings. The materials he uses are wood and bronze. In his "Female Torso" he checks the curvilinearity of the shape by turning it into geometrical cubes. Nevertheless he allows the cuprotopos, the tense twisting of the body, to remain apparent. This work is best seen from the three-quarter view. His bronze "Dancing Movement" soars up in sinuous curvilinear movement. The external golden surface shows the impressions left by bracing, hammering and rasping, while the interior is painted a matt black, probably with the intention of pinpointing the difference between the two surfaces and emphasising the continuity of the outer one.

It is certain that not all artists exhibiting here are of the same calibre, but they fit into a fine enough category to make Jordan proud of its artists.

## WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

### EXHIBITIONS

- ★ An art exhibition by Egyptian artist 'Adli Rizqullah at Al Wasil Gallery.
- ★ An art exhibition by seven Jordanian artists at the Art Gallery of Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation — 9 a.m. - 1 p.m., 3 - 6 p.m.
- ★ An art exhibition by Riham Ghassib entitled "Jordan in Spring" at the Royal Cultural Centre — 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.
- ★ An exhibition entitled "The Tüebingen Atlas of the Middle East" at the Yarmouk University.
- ★ An exhibition entitled "British Books on the Islamic World" at the Yarmouk University.
- ★ An art exhibition by Ahmad Ismael displaying paintings on Maqamat Al Hariri and Jordanian landscapes at the Gallery, Hotel Jordan Intercontinental — 9 a.m. - 7 p.m.
- ★ An exhibition of posters on the French Revolution at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ The Polish contemporary art exhibition at the Yarmouk University.

### THEATRE

- ★ An Arabic play on the Palestinian uprising entitled "Al Bilad Talbat Ahlaha" at the Palace of Culture — 7:30 p.m.
- ★ Arabic children plays organised by Noor Al Hussein Foundation Centre at Aqaba (for more information call 606992).

### FILMS

- ★ A French film entitled "Si Versailles M'était Conté" at the French Cultural Centre — 8:00 p.m.

## Jordan Times

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## Remove the fog

INITIAL reports about Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Arens' explanatory talks with President George Bush and Secretary of State James Baker speak of disagreement between the two sides on how to prepare the groundwork for a durable and just settlement of the Palestinian question. Whether this apparent discord between Washington and Tel Aviv would lead ultimately to a collision course between them is still too early to tell. In the course of the next few weeks, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir is expected to make a call on the White House in a bid to convince the American side of his stance and perspective on the overall Arab-Israeli conflict including the Palestinian case.

What seems to separate the American and Israeli sides now centres on the American call on Israel to come up with creative new ideas — distinguished from the sterile old ideas that Shamir and his clique have been offering thus far — on how to defuse the situation between Israel and the Palestinians in preparation for eventual settlement. The Palestinian side is rightly rejecting any reciprocal initiative from their side touching on the intifada before there is an agreement on a Middle East plan to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflicts, for fear that ending the Palestinian intifada prematurely would be tantamount to putting the cart before the horse. As Nabil Shaath, chairman of the Political Committee of the Palestine National Council, has said at a symposium of Palestinians and Israeli peace activists in New York Monday: "Let's put the horse where it should be and the cart where it should be. And the horse is the peace agreement." Surely Washington knows only too well that the uprising in the West Bank and Gaza Strip is the trump card in the hands of the Palestinian side and to relinquish it precipitately is a national suicide.

Meanwhile the resolution of the Arab-Israeli conflicts is destined once again to await the impending talks between President George Bush and the leaders of the Middle Eastern countries most directly involved. President Bush cannot expect to hear anything new from the Arab leaders for they have said their peace a long time ago. And it seems he will not hear anything new from the Israeli Prime Minister when he visits the U.S. in April. What is called for, therefore, is something new and encouraging from Washington to break the logjam and untie the knot in the Middle East. By speaking more clearly and forcefully on the conceptual framework of a solution to the Arab-Israeli conflicts, the White House can remove the fog that clouds the way of any such solution. If that entails a showdown with Israel, so be it. Americans would be doing Israel and the Israelis a great favour by standing firm on the side of a permanent and just resolution in the Middle East. As the meeting with Moshe Arens in Washington did not produce tangible results, one would hope that the forthcoming meeting with Yitzhak Shamir will be conducted in a more forceful manner to assure a more positive outcome.

## JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i daily newspaper said Tuesday that there has been a real change in the position of Britain and the countries of the European Community towards the Middle East issue and the Arab-Israeli conflict. The paper which quoted His Majesty King Hussein's statement that followed his talks with the British prime minister said that the King seemed to be optimistic about future steps for a solution and was full of hope that the Europeans would contribute towards a settlement. The favourable change in the European countries' position with regard to the Middle East issue is indeed a source of satisfaction for all Arabs who at the different summit meetings expressed their willingness to reach a peaceful settlement, the paper said. It said there is no doubt that the change in the European countries position came about after the PLO had recognised U.N. Security Council resolutions and displayed a genuine desire to achieve peace. But there is no doubt also that the Palestinian uprising had been instrumental in prompting the Europeans to take this new and favourable stand and opened the eyes of the world to the facts in the occupied Arab territories, the paper added.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily comments on Washington's failure so far to take a definite stand with regard to the Middle East question and says that what has been going on is no more than a postman's mission between Israel and the PLO. Tareq Masarweh says Washington is awaiting visits to the United States by the leaders of Jordan, Egypt and Israel before formulating a definite position with regard to a proper solution for the problem. But it seems that the Bush administration is trying to remain as close as possible to the position taken by the Reagan administration which means remaining biased towards the Israeli position, the writer says. It is hoped that the Bush administration will consider the idea of an international conference since everything else has failed in ending the Middle East conflict, the writer notes. He says that the Palestinian uprising could be a catalyst in formulating Washington's final stand.

Al Dustour daily commented on a meeting in London between King Hussein and the British prime minister. The paper said the meeting was part of the Kingdom's endeavours in the European arena to give further momentum to the peace process and is important since it follows open policy statements by British ministers in favour of the Palestinian cause. The paper said that Britain's open and direct support for the Palestinian people's rights has clearly contributed to the formation of a clearer and more favourable policy within the European Community vis-a-vis the Middle East question. It said that Britain's position in this case is paramount importance in view of London's influence on the United States.

## Scarcity no barrier to development

By Riad Al Khouri

ECONOMISTS talk about three "factors of production" or the things needed to produce goods and services for consumption and investment. At the simplest level these are land, labour and capital. In various combinations, the three are put together to convert potential wealth into actual production, first to satisfy people's basic needs and then to go beyond them to produce semi-luxuries and luxuries. States so basically, the economic problem becomes simple, particularly in our region.

The Middle East is full of talented people, natural resources and financial capital. Combine these factors of production and all sorts of things can be produced to make material conditions better and raise standards of living. Unfortunately, matters aren't quite so simple. Looming behind land, labour and capital is a fourth factor of production which academics have been struggling with for a while now. Some call it organisation, others technology, yet others both. It's been compared to glue which binds together the other factors and makes sure they work in harmony. This concept has interesting applications in our region. Take the case of Iraq, a place packed with natural resources, a good-sized population and, until recently, a lot of capital in the form of foreign exchange. In the words of Darrel R. Eglin of Washington D.C.'s American University:

"Early in recorded time the people of Iraq found the will and the means to build a prosperous economy. Mesopotamia (the land between the two rivers), despite its harsh environment, was turned into a granary for the region by a combination of organisational and technological ingenuity." The people of ancient Iraq practically invented large-scale agriculture. They developed and maintained a big and efficient irrigation network that contributed to the productivity of the fields that formed the economic base for much of the civilised world.

But as a result of war and other forms of upheaval, the social organisation weakened and changed, allowing the irrigation system to deteriorate. Productivity declined, and the area went through a long period of great poverty. Formation of the modern state of Iraq after World War I began, in Eglin's words, "a search for a technology that would return prosperity to the inhabitants of Mesopotamia." But this task has proven formidable because of the need for endless modification of existing customs and institutions, and many and abrupt shifts of policy. Still, a lot of progress was made and Iraq today are far better off than they were, say twenty five years ago. But the country's economic achievements have not been sufficient to provide a good standard of living for the whole population as well as the basis for self-sustaining growth in the future. Many in Iraq and elsewhere agree that the high productivity of the soil of ancient times could be regained, with agriculture again becoming a major contributor to the economy. Eglin concludes: "An expanded farm output plus development of the country's several natural resources could provide a basis for substantial increases in industry." Most observers believe that Iraq has the ingredients to become rich again when the right combination of organisation and technology is found.

What does all this prove? First of all, lots of money or wealth are not enough for steady, balanced growth. Sometimes the opposite happens: Places with an abundance of resources turn themselves into an economic mess. This has been the case of Argentina for some time now, and it could easily end up happening to the oil-rich states of our region. Conversely, poverty may be a basis for growth and development. Singapore and Switzerland come to mind — both countries are poor in natural resources, yet they have turned the little they have into something economically quite

impressive. This was done as a result of the application of the right kinds of organisation and technology. How did they do it? A good question to which there is not really a satisfactory answer. But a number of points can be made in this respect.

First, time is not really the issue: Switzerland took centuries to get where it is today, while Singapore's economic miracle occurred over a few decades. Second, the experiences of these and other successful economic systems make each one of them unique. Learning lessons from them is fine, but copying the Swiss or others and trying to apply their model to another economy will never work. Jordanians, for example, talk about Singapore as a model. This is a strange kind of parallel, probably due to the need to fill an intellectual gap with an idea, any idea no matter how wrong-headed it might be. Studying the example of Singapore might be useful to Jordan, but more to the point would be a closer look at places like Cyprus or Tunisia. These economies have had a few successes and still have to cope with many problems. They are a lot less glamorous than Switzerland or Singapore, but they are also closer to home.

The second point to come out of a close look at Iraq is the importance of studying and understanding history. Henry Ford said history is bunk, and this may do for North America, but history in the Middle East is omnipresent and all-pervasive. Understanding what Iraq and other places in the region were years ago may have the important benefit of allowing us to better cope with today's economic and other problems. Unfortunately, history in the region today is often used as an excuse for fomenting violence and exacerbating instability and unrest. But history is only a tool: Distorted and in the wrong hands it can do a lot of harm; put it to a different use and it just might help us in the continuing search for a safer and more prosperous life.

After 100 days  
Bhutto approaches  
showdown with Zia  
protegeBy Oliver Wates  
Reuters

ISLAMABAD — After 100 days as prime minister of Pakistan, Benazir Bhutto is fast approaching a showdown with her political foes.

Her Pakistan People's Party (PPP) is widely expected to try this week to unseat the chief minister of Punjab, Nawaz Sharif, main surviving protegee of the late military President Mohammad Zia Ul Haq.

The Punjab provincial assembly has been recalled and PPP leaders expect a no-confidence motion to succeed, with support from dissidents in Sharif's Islamic Democratic Alliance.

The alliance countered by recalling the national assembly in Islamabad and threatens a no-confidence motion against Bhutto, the first woman prime minister of a Muslim nation.

The battle for Punjab, the dominant province with 55 per cent of the population, has soured the atmosphere after last year's widely-hailed transition from military to civilian rule.

The struggle threatens to spoil the broadly successful image of Bhutto's first three months in power.

Political analysts and diplomats give the 35-year-old prime minister high marks, though a lower rating to the rest of her cabinet.

Newspaper commentators and foreign diplomats say the ferocity of the struggle is distracting ministers from tackling Pakistan's economic plight and could even threaten democracy.

"Rather than consolidating its position at the centre and setting its priorities for the country's future, the PPP may be embarked on a course whose consequence it may not eventually be able to control," commentator Mushahid Hussain wrote on Sunday. "The roots of democracy are not so strong."

Many in the establishment viewed the PPP with fear and suspicion, remembering the lack of tolerance of political opposition of the PPP government led by Bhutto's father Zulfikar in the 1970s, he said.

Sharif's supporters accuse the PPP of seeking to impose its rule undemocratically at every level of government. Former Industry Minister Shujaat Hussain said Bhutto was pursuing the politics of revenge.

Sharif, 38, a millionaire businessman, was a key aide of Zia for much of the general's 11 years in power. After Zia's death in an unexplained plane crash last August, he played an important role in putting together the anti-PPP alliance.

November's elections gave no clear result. The PPP became easily the largest party at federal level and governs with the support of independents in the national assembly.

In elections for the four provincial assemblies three days later the alliance reversed the result in Punjab, giving Sharif his power-base and the powerful job of chief minister.

But tensions grew in the alliance. Its main faction, the Muslim League, resented the prominent role of the Islamic fundamentalist Jamaat-i-Islami, which had been close to Zia.

Bhutto loathed Zia, who overthrew her father and presided over his execution. Taking oath as prime minister on December 2,

1988, she foreswore any vengeance on his surviving aides. But she has yet to be reconciled with Sharif.

The campaign to unseat him has, however, been led more by senior PPP ministers and party leaders from Punjab than by the prime minister herself, political analysts say.

Bhutto has carried out her prime minister's role with dignity. She visited China and Saudi Arabia, met President Bush in Tokyo, and played host to other government leaders.

"She has impressed the top bureaucrats, many of whom were very sceptical, with her grasp of issues," one Western ambassador commented.

"Benazir Bhutto has not performed any miracle, but nonetheless she has unmistakably demonstrated that she can deliver," columnist Khalid Akhtar wrote in the Muslim Daily.

"Above all she is now more acceptable to the establishment than she was in December. The military now thinks it can get along or co-exist with Benazir Bhutto".

Television viewers last Thursday saw Bhutto presenting the sword and banner of honour at the annual passing out parade of the prestigious Kakul Military Academy, a sight which would have been quite unimaginable only seven months before.

The PPP government has released political prisoners, given the media greater freedom and restored banned unions. But there have been no other striking achievements.

Foreign policy has been unchanged under Zia's Foreign Minister Shahbaz Qayyum Khan and the vital question of Afghanistan seems to have been largely left to the military.

## A novel road to politics

By Hans-Heino Koppitz

LONDON — It's an inescapable historical experience that when artists use religious or ideological themes, whatever the nature or position of the society, artistic expression often becomes a political matter.

In the West these days such disputes usually are thrashed out in court, and attendant demonstrations tend not to be violent. Even so there was considerable public furor in the early 1970s over *The Life of Brian*, an irreverent film on Christ, and recently over the Martin Scorsese production of *The Last Temptation of Christ*, in which Christ has "unacceptable hallucinations" — unacceptable, that is, for the fundamentalists. Far more often, however, violence, such as the burning down of cinemas, accompanies ideological statements through the medium of art.

In Spain, for instance, Pablo Picasso's mural of *Guernica* was attacked by followers of Generalissimo Franco and to this day remains under heavy guard and bullet-proof glass. Throughout the western world, but perhaps especially in strictly anti-Communist countries, political violence against artistic expressions is not uncommon, but generally remains a local issue, and does not impinge on interstate relations.

Salman Rushdie, author of *The Satanic Verses*, however, has not only unleashed an international crisis which has had some unexpected consequences, and which has raised some interesting questions and problems, but has also exposed the problems the Iranian establishment faces.

First of all, the speed with which the Common Market foreign ministers reacted was little short of a political miracle. Other non-EEC European states reacted hastily, notably neutral Sweden which recalled its new ambassador of two weeks to Stockholm.

Even highly cautious Japan expressed disapproval of the Iranian action, and according to

some reports, has reduced its oil imports from Iran by 30 per cent. Equally spectacular is the role of the Soviet foreign minister, Eduard Shevardnadze, who after his meeting with Ayatollah Khomeini offered to mediate between Iran and the West. This alone must go down as one of the greatest political ironies of the 1980's.

While it is fair to assume that most western states regret the whole affair, especially those like West Germany which throughout the turbulent past eight years retained normal diplomatic ties with Iran, some others can sit back and say with a sense of *deja vu*, "I told you so." The United States has not had diplomatic ties with Iran since 1979, and now it is not likely that relations will be resumed until well after the present crisis is resolved.

Iran, probably more than any other state in the region, has received an unexpected boost. For years President Saddam Hussein has argued that his war with Iran was fought partly in order to contain the fundamentalist revolution which for some time threatened to engulf the whole region.

Even Saudi Arabia, which reluctantly broke diplomatic relations with Iran last year over the conduct of Iranian pilgrims during the Hajj to Mecca, has had through this affair further justification for the decision. Had the upheaval over the Rushdie novel occurred during the war, it is reasonable to argue that the whole course of the conflict might have been radically different.

Viewed against the Indian and Pakistani reaction, particularly that by opponents of the two governments (which some observers tend to see more in the realm of domestic rather than international and much less religious politics), the response from elsewhere has been almost heart-breaking.

Although the Sheikh of Al Azhar University in Cairo condemned the book, he did not exhort the masses to act. He as well as other imams simply expressed

their strong disapproval and the book was banned by all states.

What then is the core of the issue? At the root of the current problem may lie concerns over the future of the Iranian theocracy. The principal stakes are firstly the inviolability of dogma and its application as interpreted by Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini and, secondly, the assertion of leadership over the Islamic Umma by the Iranian religious leader and thirdly the seeking of support from Islamic states in the face of increasing isolation.

The first issue is undoubtedly the most critical one. Most observers see in the Rushdie matter a power struggle between the pragmatists (e.g. the speaker of the Iranian parliament Hashemi Rafsanjani) and the conservative/revolutionary elements. This, however, overlooks the fact that the ayatollah himself had sanctioned many of Rafsanjani's policies, including receiving arms from the United States, and recently had not objected to extending ties with many states, including the Soviet Union.

His meeting with Shevardnadze was another indication that he, too, can play the pragmatic game, dealing with the Soviets is not different from dealing with the United States. It is a different matter, however, when the principles of the religion come under attack, in whatever form. That the issue came at a critical stage in the debate over economic policy (self-reliance versus incurring external debts, meaning dependency) was opportune for the conservative faction.

It can be argued, therefore, that Ayatollah Khomeini is drawing a strict line between politics where one can deal even with the Great Satan, the United States, and the religious principles of Islam (which cannot be compromised).

He is reminding his followers

that it is still he who interprets doctrine and the traditions of Islam, and if adherence to these principles restrict political actions, so be it. But under no circumstance must it be the other way round — religious dogma cannot be compromised in the service of political ends. It must be remembered that the ayatollah's denunciation of the Great Satan was a political statement, not a religious one.

The Rushdie issue also served him well to reassert his self-proclaimed leadership of the community of believers. But significantly he did this only after the riots in Pakistan, and months after the censorship of the book in all Sunni countries.

The Rushdie affair, therefore, is as much a controversy within the Islamic community as it is a conflict between Iran and non-Islamic countries. He has with his *fatwa* (religious judgment) underlined the division within the Islamic community, and accelerated the Islamic debate over whether he can, or even should, speak for the believers.

Finally, in his own way, Ayatollah Khomeini is pointing to an alternative way by which he hopes Iran can break out of its isolation, namely by drawing support from the Islamic states. This may yet prove to be a miscalculation. But Shevardnadze's visit will have encouraged him to play the game so well developed initially by the late Egyptian President Gamal Abdel Nasser: playing East and West against the middle.

Inadvertently, Salman Rushdie may have changed the course of Iran's history, through the medium of the novel — Academic File.

Hans-Heino Koppitz is a Senior Analyst with the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS), London.

## THOUGHT FOR TODAY

Customs may not be as wise as laws, but they are always more popular — Benjamin Disraeli, English statesman (1804-1881).

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## The Fight For Ozone

# Marking time in the fight for ozone

Global concern over the depletion of ozone has led to a series of major international conferences. How soon can concrete action be expected?

By Miriam Bianco

LONDON — Protecting our planet is the key to our future and politicians all over the Western world are taking environmental issues increasingly seriously. This is indicated by two major international conferences taking place in Europe within a week in March, the Saving the Ozone Layer conference in London and the pollution talks in the Hague, Netherlands.

Both events were designed to attract participants from the North as well as South — from the developed and developing world — a truly global effort. This was in acknowledgement of the fact that the earth's environment will form the basis of much of the business of international relations for the next generations. Like arms control, it is a complex and urgent task facing mankind, which will be difficult to negotiate on an international scale. In the words of Britain's Overseas Development Minister, Chris Patten: "The two issues are alike in that both concern the survival of the human race on this planet."

The concept of interdependence so widely used in the discussion of development politics has become crucial in more than political and economic terms now. For there is only one earth and what happens in one distant land is now clearly seen to affect the ecological and environmental systems of other countries.

It is in this vein that attention has recently shifted to the destruction of the forests in Amazonia, Brazil. For sustainable development means "development without destruction" and incorporates a diverse range of problems, from the polluting of the oceans to the "greenhouse effect" and the destruction of the ozone layer.

The London conference brought together participants from about 110 countries and focused on efforts to encourage all governments to commit themselves to the reduction of chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) and to show how such reductions can be achieved in practical ways.

Developing countries are prime targets in this effort, particularly China, India and South Korea. The conference was designed, in the words of Lord Calthness, British secretary of state for the environment, to "get countries to sign up to the Montreal Protocol."

The Protocol is an addition to the Vienna Convention initially agreed by 25 countries and the European Community in 1987 and which came into force Jan. 1,

1989. The Protocol makes provision for the control of both CFCs and compound gases called halons, all of which deplete the ozone layer in the earth's atmosphere.

Negotiated under the auspices of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the Protocol was a U-turn in environmental politics as the signatories represented two-thirds of the global consumption of CFCs and halons (of the levels in 1986).

The Protocol aims to freeze the production and consumption of important CFC gases at definite levels — 1986 levels by 1990, reducing to 80 per cent of 1986 levels by 1994 and 50 per cent of these levels by the end of the century.

Moreover co-operation in research, exchange of information and systematic observation of the ozone layer is also envisaged and the London conference is clearly an attempt at further progress.

And progress is fundamental here, as the latest scientific evidence shows that more stringent action is needed urgently by the Protocol to reduce CFCs further. Lord Calthness said: "The United Kingdom does not think the Montreal Protocol goes far enough, fast enough. Therefore we will be insisting on 85 per cent reduction of CFCs by 1999." In May the parties to the agreement will meet in Helsinki to begin the formal process of reviewing it — but unless more countries actively join in the effort, the situation can only get worse.

If the outlook sounds bleak, all the more reason for taking immediate action, for whilst crises are easily prompted in the frenzy of today's world they are very much harder to solve. In this case, the crisis threatens to develop into an overwhelming catastrophe.

The reasons for this are clear — CFCs and halons are long-lived. They can remain in the lower atmosphere (the troposphere) for 100 years or more, slowly leaking into the stratosphere where they initiate ozone destruction. In other words, what we pump out today will remain with us for a long time to come.

Concentration of CFCs in the troposphere is currently rising at about six per cent a year. The cause for alarm is that these emissions of man-made gases are extremely damaging to all forms of life, threatening to disturb the balance of the ocean's ecosystems, plant life and agriculture. The so-called "ozone hole" over Antarctica literally spreads like fire. Lord Calthness commented: "The air above the Arctic is prime for ozone depletion."

This is very nasty for the northern hemisphere," which is incidentally where most of the world's population lives.

The CFCs rising to the stratosphere are broken up by ultraviolet radiation, releasing chlorine atoms which then destroy ozone. Increasing amounts of ultraviolet radiation reaching the earth would increase the numbers of skin cancers and cataracts, whilst the destruction of ozone in the stratosphere (upper atmosphere) would potentially lead to deteriorating air quality in urban areas.

As if that were not enough, CFCs also contribute to the "greenhouse effect" warming the earth's surface. Current predictions are for a global average temperature rise of between 1.5 and 4.5 degrees centigrade. Lord Calthness said: "We know CFCs are part of the greenhouse effect — we don't know the exact levels and that is why we are doing more scientific research." It is probable that one of the consequences would be a rise in the sea level and therefore flooding of low-lying areas and river deltas (as well as the intrusion of salt water into the water table).

First invented in 1930 CFCs are widely used as coolants in refrigerators, in air conditioning systems, in aerosol spray cans such as shaving foam, air fresheners, deodorants, hair sprays, fly sprays and others, as well as in the manufacture of foams and as solvents, particularly in the electronics industry. Halons are used mainly in fire extinguishers.

Total British production of CFCs was about 105,000 tonnes last year, a figure confirmed by major British manufacturers as being broadly correct. Some 48,000 tonnes were exported to 117 countries — a third to EEC countries, the remainder mainly divided between the markets of the Far East, Africa, the Middle East and North America, the environmental group Greenpeace recently said in London. China alone imported some 1,348 tonnes from Britain.

Lord Calthness recently said: "At the moment some of the developing countries are buying products with CFCs. We must persuade them to buy alternatives — CFC-free products."

Greenpeace is calling for an immediate total phase-out of CFC production. Although Britain is one of the largest producers, Lord Calthness said that "In the USA CFC aerosols were banned but per capita use increased. In Britain we want a decrease in actual use."

The debate on the national scene in Britain will be reflected no doubt in other countries as well as the forthcoming deliberations. It is to be hoped that in the longer term they will not just be empty words — Academic File.

This historical story based on the classic novel by A.E. Housman is set in Nazi occupied Paris during World War II. Against the backdrop of the legendary Ritz Hotel, it is the story of a man whose personal moral dilemmas are depicted by the deadly reality of a violent struggle between the Nazi Gestapo and French Resistance. He is forced to learn that life is only worth living if you are willing to die for it. On Wednesday at 10:20 Jordan Television channel 2 will show the first part of a new mini series called The Man who lived at the Ritz.

# Young Afrikaners rock to the beat against apartheid

By Anthony Barker  
Reuter

JOHANNESBURG — A new wave of Afrikaans language rock music is worrying South Africa's dominant minority with a threat of youth revolt against apartheid, militarism and Calvinist morality. "What a friend we have in P.W.," Johannes Kerkorrel sings sarcastically at the start of a powerful, bluesy rock music act full of topical attacks on President P.W. Botha's government.

The barbs launched by Kerkorrel and a few other young Afrikaner musicians hit home because they are in the language of most government ministers and the Dutch-descended whites who dominate officialdom, the army and the police.

The very name of Kerkorrel's Gereformeerde blues band is a dig at the pro-government Dutch reformed church.

Kerkorrel, 28, mocks the sacred, brooding folk traditions of his people: "you have to make fun of these things, see them in a less serious light."

"I've always felt there was no difference between me and black people. I've never felt this serious hatred, this fear," he told reporters in an interview.

His song "Ossewa" ridicules last year's celebrations of the 1838 Great Trek, the epic blood-stained march Northwards into Africa which gave birth to Afrikaner nationalism.

Blond hair cut short, the slender Kerkorrel grins boyishly as he attacks the huge state weapons maker Armscor in "wapens" (weapons), which lists the whole menagerie of South Africa's armoured vehicles called hippos, buffalos, redcats, cheetahs.

One number savages the rich whites sealed from reality in their luxury limousines, another is a love song about a white conscript forced to patrol the black townships.

Exchanging electric keyboard for an accordion, Kerkorrel evokes the tawdry bohemia, the bookshops and drunks, cafes and seedy nightlife of Johannesburg's Hillbrow district.

Change of tone  
"All this is far from the jolly polkas on Concertinas and songs about flowers and seagulls which until now have made up Afrikaner popular music. It has provoked

strong reactions.

"The first time we played in Pretoria there were three fights because of differences of opinion among the audience," said Kerkorrel, whose name means church organ.

The dean of students at Rand Afrikaans University banned him from campus in 1986 for maligning Botha and he lost a job as a journalist on the pro-government newspaper Rapport.

But at a December festival of alternative Afrikaans music in Johannesburg, many of the audience listening to him clearly felt excited to be young Afrikaners in the late 1980s.

"They are hearing things they always wanted to hear," Kerkorrel said.

Until now, Afrikaner dissidents have mainly been serious intellectuals and earnest clergymen, now joined by a growing number of highly-innovative writers, comics and journalists.

They represent an important flowering of South African culture, but they don't have mass appeal. Rock musicians do.

"Protest against established Afrikaner attitudes and interests is not that serious if it takes place on the stage or in the works of young writers (how many people actually go to the theatre or read books?)" the magazine De Kat commented.

"But it can get out of hand if it comes through the medium of pop music with its potential to reach many thousands of people," De Kat said last year.

The government agrees. State radio this month banned three tracks of a new album by Afrikaner language musicians.

The radio disapproved of Benoudis Niemand's song "snor city," which mocks the bureaucrats of Pretoria and the moustaches they all seem to wear, and Randy Rambo and the rough riders who lampoon the mentality of young Afrikaner mothers.

Because they do not sing in English, the alternative Afrikaner rockers will have trouble breaking into international markets or even getting much exposure on South African media.

Kerkorrel has not followed South African Johnny Clegg and U.S. musician Paul Simon in making heavy use of African themes, although some black influences appear amid the band's heavy rock and industrial, high-

tech sound.

He is unlikely to become rich, despite his many fans.

But he feels Afrikaner thinking has to change, or more people will join groups like the neo-fascist Afrikaner Weerstandsbeweging (AWB — Afrikaner resistance movement).

"These AWB people, they have their finger on the trigger and they are ready for fun," he said.

"It is crucial for them to control their own paranoia. They must understand there is food enough, room enough for us all." Of living in South Africa Kerkorrel says: "where else can you be where what you are saying and singing can make a difference?"



Cry, the beloved country: Archbishop Tutu



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## REQUIRED FOR FOOD INDUSTRY

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## Oil prices firm on news of supply cuts to Japan

**TOKYO (R)** — News that Saudi Arabia will cut crude supplies to Japan by 30 per cent in April boosted oil prices in the Far East Tuesday.

"It's going to give the market a good kick," said one international oil trader.

Reports that major Western oil companies bought several cargoes of Mideast crudes on the spot market Monday gave rise to speculation that they also had been informed of a cut in supplies from Saudi Arabia, traders said.

West Texas Intermediate, the benchmark U.S. crude, traded at \$18.70 a barrel for May in Tokyo Tuesday, seven cents over its closing price on the New York Mercantile Exchange (NYMEX) futures market Monday.

U.S. oil prices hit a seven-week high Monday as news of a temporary shutdown of Norway's Ekofisk oil field prompted technical buying at NYMEX.

"Ekofisk brought the market up yesterday, but that's only temporary and the market's really been supported by today's news of Saudi supply cuts," said a major oil company trader.

Saudi Arabia told Japanese buyers that it will supply only 105,000 barrels per day (b/d) of crude in April out of their total contract volume of 150,000 b/d, industry sources said.

The reduction in supplies is much larger than Japanese firms anticipated, the sources said.

In addition, Japanese oil companies must comply with a government request to cut back on soaring Iranian imports by 20 to 25 per cent in April, they said.

Japanese firms have asked Iraq to supply some 180,000 b/d of crude in April, compared to a contract volume of around 135,000 b/d, but have not yet heard whether Iraq will supply this volume, oil sources said.

Mideast crude supply to the Far East in the second quarter is therefore becoming tighter despite the seasonally lower demand which most traders had expected to pull prices down at least by \$1 or \$2 in the next three months.

"Relative to the West this market might weaken a bit, but overall it is not likely to weaken much," said the international oil trader.

The availability of Mideast crude has been declining since November 1988 when the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) agreed to limit group output to 18.5 million b/d in the first half of 1989 to boost OPEC oil prices to a targeted \$18 a barrel.

Total OPEC output has dropped from 22.3 million b/d in the fourth quarter of last year, to around 19.65 million in February, and oil prices have risen by some \$4 a barrel.

But the Mideast benchmark crude, from Dubai, is still trading more than \$2 below OPEC's target and some Japanese oil companies predict prices will weaken again in the second quarter unless OPEC output falls further.

"I doubt this strength will continue," said Yasuhiro Tashiro, chief economist at the Idemitsu oil company.

## High interest rates fail to halt U.K. consumer boom

**LONDON (R)** — Chancellor of the Exchequer Nigel Lawson digested an unwelcome rise in consumer spending Monday before an annual budget designed to restore the British government's shaken economic credibility.

Official figures showed a 2.5 per cent increase in retail sales in February despite a regime of high interest rates imposed to choke a credit-led consumer shopping boom.

The rise in consumer spending, after a 2.4 per cent fall in January, gave fresh ammunition to

critics of the chancellor's strategy of relying on interest rates to cool the economy.

Opposition Labour Party spokesman Bryan Gould accused Lawson of a "monomaniacal obsession" with interest rates, adding: "No other chancellor can have stood... to deliver a budget knowing so little about the real state of the British economy."

Politicians and economists expect the budget to comprise a cautious packet of measures to bring down inflation and narrow a huge trade deficit.

The success or failure of Lawson's sixth budget could be critical to the government's future as it struggles to balance the economy and legislate a series of unpopular privatisations including water and electricity utilities.

Some Conservative supporters who credited Lawson with winning the 1987 election for Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher fear his misjudgment of the economy since could cost her power at the next poll which is due by 1992. The chancellor's reputation has plunged since the forecasts he made in his 1988 budget speech proved wildly wrong.

Inflation, projected at a rate of four per cent by the end of 1988, has hit 6.8 per cent and is still rising.

The trade deficit, predicted by Lawson to be \$4 billion (\$6.9 billion) for the year, soared to a record \$15 billion (\$26 billion).

The unforeseen economic growth forced Lawson to raise interest rates six times from 7.5 per cent to 13 per cent between last June and November despite industrialists' concern that such increases could help trigger a recession.

### ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

#### 'Asian export growth to slow in 1989'

**BANGKOK (R)** — Asian nations are likely to see their hectic export expansion slow this year due to weaker-world economic growth, a United Nations report said. "In most (Asian) countries, export expansion slowed down in the latter part of 1988 and this deceleration was expected to continue in 1989 and into 1990," the U.N. Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific said. In its 1988 survey, released at the weekend, the Bangkok-based body said rapid growth in Japanese demand and expanding trade among developing Asian economies boosted the region's exports last year. China, Hong Kong, Pakistan, South Korea, Singapore and Thailand all saw the value of their exports rise by around 20 per cent or faster last year, the survey said. However, it said export growth in the region would be reduced this year by the expected slowdown of the world economy and various factors in specific Asian economies. The factors included the appreciation of the currencies of Taiwan and South Korea, making their goods more expensive abroad, and shortages of manpower and infrastructure in economies including Hong Kong, Singapore, Thailand and possibly China.

#### Oman seeks \$500 million loan

**MANAMA, Bahrain (AP)** — Gulf International Bank (GIB) and Chase Investment Bank Ltd. are arranging a syndicated medium-term loan of \$500 million for the Sultanate of Oman, the GIB has announced. The eight-year, two-tranche loan will comprise a \$400 million Euroloan and another equivalent to \$100 million with an option for conversion into other currencies, an official announcement said. Oman unveiled a \$4.2 billion budget on Jan. 1 forecasting total revenue at around \$3.1 billion this year, of which 75 per cent would be oil-related receipts. The budget deficit of \$900 million widened from a projected shortfall of \$387 million in 1988.

#### Japan's trade surplus widens

**TOKYO (AP)** — Japan's trade surplus widened in February for the sixth consecutive month from year-earlier levels, boosted by expanding exports, the finance ministry has said. The surplus reached \$7.219 billion, up from \$5.240 billion in the same month last year and well above January's level of \$3.25 billion, according to ministry figures. Exports in February rose 10.4 per cent from a year earlier to \$22.343 billion, while imports edged up by 0.9 per cent to \$15.124 billion. The figures are compiled as goods passing through customs in February at an exchange rate of around 126.50 yen. Japan's overall trade surplus rose as a result of continued strength in exports, ministry officials said, adding they expected the upward trend to continue at levels five-six per cent above those of one year ago.

#### Cambodia woos foreign investors

**BANGKOK, Thailand (AP)** — Cambodia will create all possible favourable conditions for foreign investors as part of its economic reforms, Prime Minister Hun Sen told the country's first national economic conference. Hun Sen reaffirmed that the country "would carry on with its open-door policy toward the national economy whose composition includes state and private sectors." The premier said the government "will create all possible favourable conditions for foreign investors to work in the country so that they can help restore and develop Kampuchea's (Cambodia's) national economy." The government has pared down some of the more orthodox features of socialist planning to try to develop what is one of the world's most impoverished countries.

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- Excellent typing/word processing skills in both Arabic and English, 45 words/minute minimum for English (Note: a typing test may be required).
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Please Contact: John McEachern or Mr. Suleiman Hanbali  
NES Project  
Dept. of Environment  
Tel. 672131

## Iran may agree to abandon major petrochemical project

**TOKYO (R)** — Iran has hinted it might agree to abandon an Iranian-Japanese project to build a giant petrochemical complex, a Mitsui company spokesman has said.

Mitsui officials said they hoped they had broken the impasse over the Iran-Japan Petrochemical Company (IJPC) project which ground to a halt during the Gulf war.

"It's a step forward for friendly separation of our relationship in the project," a Mitsui spokesman said of the latest Iranian position. "The Iranian stand has apparently softened."

Japanese firms led by Mitsui, and Iran's National Petrochemical Company (NPC), invested 600 billion yen (\$4.6 billion) in the 50-50 joint venture since 1971. The plant, which would have

been one of the world's biggest petrochemical complexes, was 85 per cent complete when work halted after the Iran-Iraq war broke out in 1980.

Mitsui first indicated it wanted out of the deal 20 months ago when shipping attacks in the Gulf were a daily occurrence. Mitsui formally asked Iran to abandon the project last December but Iran said it needed more time to decide.

A Mitsui spokesman said NPC officials now said they understood Mitsui's view that resuming work on the war-damaged complex was not financially justifiable.

The complex, at Bandar Khomeini on the Gulf coast, was hit by Iraqi air raids during the eight-year war.

Hiroshi Watada, president of the Iran Chemical Development Company, a Mitsui-led investment unit for the project, met NPC officials in Tehran last week in a hurriedly-arranged trip at Iran's request.

"At the moment, we cannot say Mitsui and Iran have reached any agreement to wind up the project. Both sides are ready to sit at the bargaining table. That's all," said the Mitsui spokesman.

He quoted Watada as saying that even after a working-level agreement was reached, it would still need approval by senior Iranian government officials.

No plans have been made for another round of talks on the project, but Mitsui expects Iranian officials to visit Tokyo in April, the spokesman said.

## Hungary, Romania hope to play big role in Araboil projects

**BAHRAIN (R)** — Hungary and Romania may soon play a wider role in the oil industries of conservative Arab Gulf states, representatives attending a Middle East oil show said Tuesday.

Oil and trade officials from the two countries — who were attending the biennial show for the first time — said changes in the Gulf political climate could lead to cooperation in oil exploration, drilling and manufacturing industries.

"We feel there is a change of climate and are very much hopeful this will develop further so that in the future we will be given the opportunity to enter the Saudi market," said Janos Feher, area manager of Hungarian trading firm Chemokomplex.

There has been a gradual thawing of relations between Gulf states and Eastern Bloc countries, including the Soviet Union which has opened embassies in Abu Dhabi, Oman and Qatar since 1985.

Anti-communist Saudi Arabia does not have diplomatic ties with any communist state. Kuwait is the only country in the six-member Gulf Cooperation Council which has relations with Hungary and Romania, in addition to the Soviet Union.

Zolt Vida, head of the Hungarian foreign trade department, said Saudi oil officials at the show had said they would cooperate with Hungary on new oil exploration ventures.

He said plans to set up plants to produce oil drilling tools in Saudi Arabia and Bahrain had also been discussed and were likely to be finalised within a year.

Fehér said Hungary would take part in onshore pipeline construction projects and plant installations in Qatar and help set up a new refinery in North Yemen.

Sanaa would announce plans to build the refinery within two months, he added.

A Hungarian businessman who declined to be named said Saudi Arabia had invited Hungarian journalists to the kingdom and a business delegation would visit Riyadh soon.

The four-day oil show in Bahrain ended Tuesday.

## U.S. steel users voice complaints

**WASHINGTON (R)** — U.S. steel-using firms, calling for an end to voluntary quotas on steel exports to the United States, have said that the seven-year-old quotas had raised the cost of steel and meant higher prices for consumers.

The firms want an end to the voluntary restraint agreements (VRAs) when they expire Sept. 30 but face opposition from the U.S. steel industry, which says it needs more time to modernise in the face of less expensive foreign steel.

Congressional observers say a bill to extend the VRAs, which cover the European Community and 17 other nations, is all but sure to be approved. President Bush backs the bill.

Paul London, as economist for the Coalition of American Steel Using Manufacturers, told the U.S. International Trade Commission: "VRAs are a kind subsidy, not by the government, but paid for by steel users to the steel industry."

He added that U.S. steel prices were 25 per cent higher than prices in Japan and 20 per cent higher than in Europe.

Fighting for renewed quotas are the American Iron and Steel Institute and the Specialty Steel Industry of the United States.

The House Ways and Means Subcommittee on Trade asked the commission to hold the hearing to help it consider the extension bill, backed by 40 senators and 100 House members.

An official of Caterpillar Inc., a major user of steel and exporter of heavy and agricultural and construction equipment, told the commission the financial health of steel users must be considered as well as the health of the steel industry.

William Lane said Caterpillar

### AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Tuesday, March 14, 1989 Central Bank official rates				
	Buy	Sell		
U.S. dollar	538.0	542.0	Japanese yen (for 100)	413.3 417.2
Found Sterling	920.0	928.9	Dutch guilder	255.4 257.7
Deutsche mark	288.1	290.8	Swedish crown	84.2 85.0
Swiss franc	336.7	340.0	Italian lire (for 100)	39.3 39.6
French franc	85.0	85.9	Belgian franc (for 10)	137.7 139.0

### LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

**LONDON (R)** — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Tuesday.

	1.7125/35	U.S. dollar
One Sterling	1.1970/80	Canadian dollar
One U.S. dollar	1.8659/64	Deutsche mark
	2.1045/55	Dutch guilders
	1.5953/65	Swiss francs
	39.04/07	Belgian francs
	6.3225/75	French francs
	1568/1369	Italian lire
	129.95/130.05	Japanese yen
	6.3810/60	Swedish crowns
	6.7920/70	Norwegian crowns
	7.2710/60	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	394.30/394.70	U.S. dollars

### WORLD STOCK MARKETS

**SYDNEY** — Investors honed in on selected industrial stocks as the share market edged up slowly in the afternoon in thin volumes. The All Ordinaries rose 3.2 to 1494.0.

**TOKYO** — Share prices rose to close near their highs in moderately active trade with relative stability in yen-dollar rates spurring buying. The Nikkei index rose 171.39 to 31,735.73.

**HONG KONG** — As the Hong Kong market tried to reach a consensus about the state of the U.S. economy, stocks rose, fell and rose again to end marginally higher. The Hang Seng firmed 4.90 to 3,034.79.

**SINGAPORE** — Share prices rose over a broad front on widespread buying, with turnover hitting an all-time high of 102.8 million shares. The Straits Times industrial index rose 6.59 to 1,166.97.

**BOMBAY** — Share prices fell for a second day after the failure by a stockbroker to honour payments set off nervous long liquidations, brokers said.

**FRANKFURT** — Shares ended firm but off the day's highs after profit-taking set in and stemmed the initially euphoric mood. The DAX index rose 15.95 to 1,329.50.

**ZURICH** — Shares closed slightly firmer but below the day's highs after early buying following Monday night's firmer Wall Street ran out of steam. The Swiss index rose 2.2 to 987.4.

**PARIS** — Prices were off their highs by mid-session but the spate of corporate news helped buoy sentiment.

**LONDON** — Share prices were near the day's highs as the market awaited the U.K. budget speech by Chancellor Nigel Lawson. Traders hope Lawson's budget proposals will be fairly tight, so that sterling will not weaken. At 1514 GMT the FTSE 100 index was up 18.6 to 2,121.6.

**NEW YORK** — Stocks turned lower in mid-morning on profit-taking and a retreat by bond prices from early highs. The Dow was down two to 2,304.



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## Moscow cracks down on demonstrations

MOSCOW (AP) — Soviet authorities detained at least 240 demonstrators in two cities who likened communism to Czarist tyranny and jammed U.S.-financed Radio Liberty Monday as it reported on the protests, activists said.

It was the widest reported crack-down in months on demonstrators in Moscow and Leningrad reported and the first jamming of Radio Liberty since the Soviets halted the practice last fall under President Mikhail S. Gorbachev's programme for greater openness.

Valery Terekhev, 40, said he was one of more than 200 people detained Sunday in Leningrad in connection with an unauthorised three-hour demonstration calling for multi-party democracy in the Soviet Union.

"I think there have never been so many people detained in Leningrad," Terekhev said in a telephone interview.

All of those detained were released pending trials set for Wednesday through Friday, said Terekhev, a member of the Democratic Union, an independent political party that chal-

lenges the monopoly of the Communist Party on political power.

He said 15 buses brought some 2,000 police, some with dogs, to round up Leningrad protesters demonstrating on the 72nd anniversary of the 1917 overthrow of the Russian monarchy.

The revolution occurred in February according to the old-style religious calendar then in use but in March according to the modern calendar.

Terekhev said the date was picked to show that the one-party system should be replaced with a democratic, multi-party system and a free press, just as the 1917 revolution ended Czarist totalitarianism.

In Moscow, some 40 people were detained Sunday during a similar protest on Mayakovskiy Square, said Yuri Mityunov, a Moscow-based member of the

Democratic Union.

One of the slogans of the multi-city demonstrations was:

"Against the absolutism of the Communist Party," which echoed a slogan of the anti Czarist forces of 1917: "Against the absolutism of the Czar," Mityunov said.

One of those taken away by Moscow police, Sergei Grigoryants, editor of the now defunct magazine Glasnost had already been tried and sentenced to a 10-day jail term and a 150-ruble fine, said Viktor Rezunkov, another Glasnost editor. The critically outspoken magazine stopped publication after being raided by police last year.

Rezunkov said Grigoryants called a hunger strike, but that little else was known because his trial was closed.

Radio Liberty's reports on the demonstrations and similar protests in the Siberian city of Irkutsk and the Volga industrial city of Kuibyshev were jammed Sunday, said Mityunov, a journalist, whose commentaries are aired on the radio's Russian-language broadcasts.



Walking in the halls of Salem, Massachusetts prison, Greek banker George Koskotas, has nowhere to go.

## Papandreou, U.S. tensions high over banker

ATHENS (AP) — The government narrowly survived a censure motion over a finance scandal Tuesday, and Premier Andreas Papandreou suggested the United States had an interest in helping a Greek banker who accused him of accepting million-dollar payoffs.

Papandreou spoke in parliament Monday before midnight voting on the censure motion, submitted by the conservative opposition New Democracy Party. His Panhellenic Socialist Movement (PASOK) holds 157 of parliament's 300 seats and defeated the motion by 155-123 votes early Tuesday.

A majority of votes for the censure motion would have resulted in dissolution of parliament and new elections. The vote followed three days of occasionally fierce debate.

PASOK deputies cheered and applauded when speaker Yiannis Alevra announced the result. Af-

ter the vote, Papandreou announced that three PASOK deputies who abstained would be dismissed from the party.

There were 278 present in the chamber, PASOK picked up a vote from an independent deputy.

New Democracy, which controls 111 seats, received additional support from independents and a small conservative splinter group, the communists, with 10 seats, abstained.

Papandreou took issue with U.S. denials that a self-proclaimed Central Intelligence (CIA), agent had ever worked for the CIA of the United States. The purported agent, Tom Mailis, told a parliamentary fact-finding committee last week that banker George Koskotas was a CIA agent trying to destabilise Greece.

"The statement issued by the United States embassy that Mr. Mailis was not part of the CIA is

unacceptable," Papandreou said, after the embassy released a formal comment Monday.

Mailis has not been available for further comment.

Koskotas fled Greece last November after being indicted in a \$200-million fraud, forgery and embezzlement scandal.

He was arrested in the United States and is in jail in Salem, Massachusetts, awaiting an extradition hearing.

Koskotas has alleged that Papandreou and senior cabinet members authorised plans to siphon millions of dollars from the Bank of Crete while he was chairman. He also claimed they received millions of dollars in payoffs.

Most of the banker's allegations were reported in the March 13 issue of the U.S. news magazine Time. Papandreou has said he will sue Time.

Constantine Mitsotakis, leader of the New Democracy Party,

accused Papandreou of not replying to the allegations and called his charges of CIA involvement "a children's story."

"It is not the foreign and domestic centres that are destabilising Greece," Mitsotakis said, adding that "You are the one that has turned Greece into a banana republic."

Mitsotakis said PASOK officials were "deeply involved" in the Koskotas affair and reiterated opposition charges that the government had been involved in illegal arms shipments to the Sandinista government in Nicaragua and to Iran and Iraq when those two countries were at war.

Papandreou did not respond to the allegations except to say that "Mr. Mitsotakis went overboard tonight with his lies and slander."

He said without elaboration that a recently published book titled "The Cocaine Wars" revealed Mailis had worked for the agency.

## COLUMN

### 007 turns down licence to thrill

LONDON (R) — Roger Moore, the British actor best known for his film portrayal of tongue-in-cheek spy James Bond, walked out of the lead role of a stage musical Monday — a month before the premiere. A London stage singing debut to Andrew Lloyd Webber's *Aspects of Love* was to be the toughest assignment of the man who played 007, the spy licensed to kill, on screen. But six weeks into rehearsals, the 61-year-old actor with the baritone voice decided he was not up to the job. "I now do not think the musical stage is for me," he told reporters. "After many hours of rehearsal and much soul-searching I have come to a most difficult decision." The musical, which has already sold out for months ahead, is a love story between a young Englishman and a penniless French actress. Moore agreed to play a romantic aristocrat George Dillingham after Lloyd Webber heard him sing at a private party. Lloyd Webber said: "I think perhaps that I underestimated the vocal demands of the role because I so much wanted Roger to play it. But I have to accept his judgment and recognise his right to protect his own high standards."

### Mrs. Peru wins Mrs. World pageant

LAS VEGAS (AP) — A Peruvian charity worker and mother of two beat out 38 other contestants Monday to win the Mrs. World pageant competition. Lucila Boggiano de Zoeger, 23, was crowned the new Mrs. World during ceremonies at the Flamingo Hilton. The pageant was taped for a later syndicated television broadcast. Mrs. Peru topped first runner-up Savine Pachinsawat of Thailand to win the competition among married women from 39 countries. Mrs. America, Jennifer Kline of Tonka Bay, Minnesota, was the second runner-up, while Mrs. USSR, Irina Suvorova of Moscow, finished fourth. Rounding out the top five was Valerie Carver of Singapore. The new Mrs. World is a volunteer for the Foundation for Peace in Peru and a resident of Ferrenate, Peru. She is the mother of two children, ages three and two.

### 60-year-old woman jailed for drug peddling

SYRACUSE, New York (AP) — A 60-year-old woman was sentenced Monday to 20 years to life in state prison for selling a half-pound (.22 of a kilogramme) of cocaine to an undercover police investigator. The defence attorney for Martha Weatherspoon objected to the sentence as "a little harsh," noting that his client would be 80 before she is eligible for parole. "At her age, it is life," said the lawyer, Hurlie Maye. Weatherspoon, a Syracuse resident, was convicted in January of first-degree criminal sale and possession of a controlled substance and other drug-related charges. She admitted to selling 8 ounces (.22 of a kilogramme) of cocaine last October for \$8,000.

### Biologist spends 5 days in tiny world

ORACLE, Arizona (AP) — Marine biologist Abigail Alling ended five days of isolation in a tiny greenhouse-like enclosure on Monday and said the experimental environment was "truly paradise." "What surprised me was how easy and relaxed the whole thing was," Ms. Alling said after stepping out of the 25-foot-square (2-square-metres) enclosure that cut her off from the rest of earth's environment. The miniaturised ecosystem inside the test module provided her air, food, water and all other needs for her survival.

### No more mafia 'hospital holiday'

ROME (R) — Italy's top anti-mafia investigator says some convicted mobsters are spending too much time in hospital instead of jail and ordered a halt to it. Anti-mafia High Commissioner Domenico Sica said some gang bosses had spent up to two years in hospital in the Sicilian capital Palermo compared with the average two weeks for most patients. "We believe there is an obvious anomaly... and it has got to be put right as soon as possible," Sica said in a letter to magistrates and hospital officials. "The state cannot tolerate easy admissions to hospital for non-existent illnesses." The letter, published in newspapers Sunday, follows mounting concern about the apparent ease with which mafia clan chiefs are able to leave prison for hospital.

## Santiago promises action after cyanide fruit scare

SANTIAGO, Chile (AP) — The government has promised to protect Chilean fruit from further contamination and is blaming terrorists and communists for a cyanide scare that threatens one of the country's most lucrative exports.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Monday warned consumers not to eat any fruit imported from Chile after traces of cyanide were found in Chilean seedless red grapes in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

The cyanide was discovered after an anonymous threat to poison Chilean fruit was tele-

phoned to the U.S. embassy in Santiago March 2.

Interior Minister Carlos Caceres went on national radio and television Monday night and blamed "terrorism supported by international communism which does not hesitate in damaging not only our economic interests but also our social and moral interests."

Chile has been under right-wing military rule since September 1973, when the armed forces ousted the elected government of Marxist President Salvador Allende. The coup was led by General Augusto Pinochet, the

current president.

Despite the cyanide scare, Caceres said Chile "will continue to be a dependable supplier" to the international fruit market.

Security has been reinforced throughout the fruit-exporting process "from the crop to the port of destiny," he said.

Caceres said an investigation conducted after the anonymous caller said some export fruits would be laced with poison had uncovered no problem.

"We have now come from the anonymous threat to the concrete damage," he added.

## McFarlane kept in dark in Irangate

WASHINGTON (R) — Oliver North kept National Security Adviser Robert McFarlane in the dark about his fund-raising for the Nicaraguan contras and a plan to funnel to them profits from arms sales to Iran, McFarlane testified.

McFarlane, North's boss at the Reagan administration National Security Council (NSC), said in testimony Monday that North also doctored old memos and drafted letters in response to two congressional inquiries into North's activities regarding the contras. In his second day on the stand in North's trial on 12 criminal

charges in the Iran-contra affair, McFarlane repeatedly took responsibility for NSC mistakes, saying North was not to blame. "I'm wrong in what I did," McFarlane said, adding that he was convinced North had not solicited funds for the contras when Congress had outlawed such aid, and did not provide tactical support to the anti-Sandinista fighters.

## Savimbi ready for talks with Luanda

JAMBA, Angola (R) — Angolan rebel leader Jonas Savimbi called Monday for direct talks with the Marxist Luanda government and said he was ready to allow the Benguela railway to reopen after 10 years of disuse.

Savimbi, head of the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA), offered the government a ceasefire on condition that talks began.

"UNITA wants to negotiate directly with the Angolan government for peace to prevail in Angola, but we will not put down the guns until the peace process has begun," Savimbi told reporters at his bush headquarters in southern Angola.

He said only direct talks between UNITA and the Luanda

government could achieve a solution, although other African states had a part to play in laying groundwork.

UNITA, formed to oppose Portuguese colonial rule in Angola, has fought since independence in 1975 for a share in government.

Savimbi also said UNITA had formed a 10-man delegation to tour Africa, Europe and the United States to prepare the ground for negotiations.

He announced he would soon release more than 100 government prisoners and indicated he would stop attacks on the 1,348-kilometre Benguela Railway, which once carried Zairean and Zambian copper exports to the Atlantic coast.

## Malawi floods leave thousands homeless

BANGULA (R) — Floods have devastated southern Malawi, making 50,000 people homeless and forcing some to cling to the branches of trees to escape death.

The floods, caused by a week of torrential rain, have washed away villages and destroyed crops, livestock and communications in the central African country's most densely populated region.

"I escaped only with my life," said Linson Moffat, a fisherman whose village near Bangula was swept away.

"Everything has gone. My house, chickens, goats, fishing nets. I have recovered nothing."

The floods, believed to be the worst in 30 years, also swept through the central region, a few days before an earthquake

hit the area killing at least eight people.

Only six flood-related deaths have so far been reported, but dozens of villagers are thought to have drowned.

The double tragedy was a serious blow to Malawi, whose agriculture-based economy has been under strain from an influx of 600,000 refugees fleeing war and famine in neighbouring Mozambique.

Hardest hit was the southernmost district of Nsanje where some 230,000 Mozambican refugees live. Officials said an estimated 30,000 people in Nsanje and 20,000 in nearby Chikwawa district were homeless.

Nsanje was cut off for several days when a bridge was washed away. A temporary bridge was erected but might not be able to carry the 1,400 tonnes of food

needed by the refugees and flood victims every two weeks.

Although refugee camps have not been seriously affected, some 5,000 people have had to leave their flooded homes.

At Bangula, 80 kilometres north of Nsanje, the roofs of grass-thatched huts showing above the water and fallen telephone lines are the only signs of previous habitation.

Thousands of people have crowded into empty warehouses or sought shelter with friends and relatives living on higher ground.

The government plans to appeal for international help after assessing the damage. One official estimated it would be six months before the lives of most people returned to normal.

## Austro-Hungary last empress dies

VIENNA (R) — Zita, the last empress of Austria and queen of Hungary, died Tuesday aged 96 in Switzerland where she had lived in exile, since leaving Vienna with her husband in 1918 when the Habsburg monarchy collapsed after Austria's defeat in World War II.

She died in her apartment in a former Franciscan convent in the village of Zizers in the upper Rhine Valley, close to the Austrian border, said the announcement issued through her son Otto von Habsburg.

A devout Catholic, the former empress lived simply and austere in the former convent since 1962 in sharp contrast with the royal palaces in Vienna and Budapest she once enjoyed.

Her small, frail figure had been clad in mourning black ever since her husband died in 1922, leaving her to raise their children alone. She rarely appeared in public.

Zita was born May 9, 1892, at

Pionere, near Pisa, Italy, into the large family of Duke Robert of Parma. In October 1911, at the age of 19, she married Archduke Karl, a grand-nephew of the aged Austro-Hungarian Emperor Franz Josef.

Some three years later Karl became crown prince following the assassination in Sarajevo in June 1914 of the emperor's nephew and heir, Archduke Franz Ferdinand.

The murder ignited World War I, in which Austria-Hungary was allied with Germany against France, Britain and Russia. Franz Josef died in November 1916, aged 86, and Karl and Zita succeeded him.

The announcement of her death came in a statement issued in Vienna by the Pan-European Union, a group that campaigns for political unity in Europe and is headed by her eldest son Otto.

Otto, 76, present head of the House of Habsburg, abandoned

claims to the monarchy in 1961 and took West German citizenship. He is a member of the European Parliament in Strasbourg.

When Zita's husband died in 1922, the couple were living on the Portuguese island of Madeira where they had been banished by the victorious Western allies after two ill-fated post-war attempts to regain the throne of Hungary.

For 63 years she was barred from entering Austria under a 1918 law forbidding members of the imperial family to return unless they abandoned all claims to their former titles.

Zita refused to comply and had to be content with a view of Austria's mountains from the windows of her Swiss exile.

But in May 1982 the Viennese authorities allowed her, then aged 90, to visit the grave of her eldest daughter, Adelheid, in the Tyrolean village of Tulfes, near Innsbruck.

### Protest papers hit stands

CHICAGO (AP) — Thousands of newspaper readers in San Francisco, Chicago and Springfield, Illinois, Monday found mock-ups of their favourite dailies spouting anti-war harangues printed by groups protesting U.S. policy in El Salvador. Groups in the three cities said they placed fake front pages around actual copies of the papers in vending machines. Officials at all three papers denounced the imitations, and at least two were considering legal action. At first glance, the fake front pages appeared to be the real fronts of the Chicago Tribune, the San Francisco Chronicle and the (Springfield) state journal-register, but readers got a surprise on closer examination. The fake Chicago Tribune had the newspaper's masthead but contained stories with headlines proclaiming "U.S. at war in El Salvador," and "Death Squad Activities." Tribune officials said. The other phony newspapers had similar headlines. Bleary-eyed commuters in San Francisco might not have immediately noticed that their newspaper was called the "Chornicle," not the "Chronicle," but they may have done a double-take at the front-page apology from "Chornicle" editors for the newspaper's coverage of El Salvador.

### U.S. to seek more contra aid

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. government is preparing to ask Congress for more humanitarian aid for the Nicaraguan contras at a time when the rebels also are enjoying greater diplomatic acceptance in the region than they had previously. Although no final decision has been made, U.S. officials said Monday they expect the request probably will exceed \$50 million. Contra leader Adolfo Calero said after a meeting with U.S. State Department officials the request will be "40 some odd million dollars."

### Crew missing from tanker

TOKYO (AP) — Twenty-three crew members were reported missing after their chemical tanker carrying flammable liquids exploded and burst into flames off the coast of central Japan Tuesday morning, a coast guard official said. The 23,038-ton Maasgusar "is still burning and explosions are ripping through its body," said Akira Sasaki of the Maritime Safety Agency. He said the vessel was tilting to the left but was still floating. The crew of 23 men, including 19 from the Philippines and four from England, were reported missing.

### Power failure in Quebec

MONTREAL (AP) — Millions of Quebec residents were left without power in their homes and businesses Monday and Montreal's subway shut down when electricity was knocked out to most of the province. The blackout occurred before dawn near the James Bay hydroelectric project in northern Quebec and affected about six million residents of Montreal, Quebec city and most of the rest of the province.

### Salvador rebels bomb poll offices

SAN SALVADOR (R) — Leftist guerrillas Monday bombed an election commission office and demanded the resignation of officials and workers involved in organising presidential elections set for March 19. No one was hurt in the pre-dawn dynamite attack on the central commission of election office in the Santa Tecla suburbs but a great deal of equipment and furniture and part of the building was damaged, a military report said.

## Mystery flights for only one day — latest craze to hit Belgium

By David Ljunggren  
Reuters

BRUSSELS — An hour ago, the 18 passengers at the back of the aircraft had no idea where they would be flying to.

Like hundreds of Belgians each weekend, they simply turned up at Brussels airport with day-return tickets to fly the national airline Sabena to a mystery destination.

Their 3,000-franc (\$78) flat-rate tickets will take them to one of 15 European cities from London to Milan for a stay of 40 minutes or so before catching the same plane back to Brussels.

Sabena says it devised the "air promenades" scheme to promote air travel, fill empty seats at weekends and encourage people to stick with the airline in future.

"The promotional impact is fantastic. In Europe people fly much less than in the United States. Half of all Americans have flown, here the figure is 15 per cent," said Achille Moerman, Sabena's European head of marketing.

Promenaders can buy tickets up to Friday afternoon, when Sabena checks the number of seats available — usually between 50 and 500 — and decides who will be flying where.

Each passenger then receives a brief call telling them when to be at the airport. On arrival, they check in at a special desk and are given a bright blue badge with their boarding passes. Only then do they know that their destination will be.

"There's one man who's been four times already and several who have been more than once. Whenever we get repeat bookings we try our

best to send them to a different destination," Moerman said. "After you've taken meals and everything else into account, we don't make a profit on the fares. It's the same

amount as you'd pay for a meal in a restaurant," he said.

Sabena surveys since the scheme began six weeks ago show that the majority of air-promenaders have never flown before and that most travel because they like the idea of flying rather than to buy duty free goods.

"We'll continue the scheme until we run out of passengers. It allows you to see the exciting international view of air transport," Moerman added.

The not-so-exciting international view of air transport — an air controllers' strike — meant the 18 air promenaders on a recent Saturday flight to Nice left more than an hour

late.

"No, I don't think it's crazy to buy a ticket and not know where you're going. I like flying a lot, but you don't get the chance to do so in my job. This is only my fourth flight in 20 years," said bank teller Andre Koeckelberghs.

"It's not that expensive, considering what you have to pay for flights normally. I'm not sure if we'll be doing it every week, though," he said as the Boeing 737 cruised over the Alps.

There seems to be no shortage of passengers willing to take part, even if not all of them look thrilled when the plane leaves the ground.

"This is my first ever flight. It's an experience but I'm a little frightened. I'm not sure if they've checked the engines," said school teacher Martin Lambrechts.

"I think it's a fantastic idea, especially for those who haven't flown before. You're getting the same service as those who've paid the full fare," said Captain Raymond Aelvoet.

The promenaders on the 90-minute journey spent the time gazing out of the windows or working their way through the in-flight meal before the plane circled low over the Cote d'Azur and landed at Nice airport, bathed in warm sunshine.

After picking up their boarding passes for the return trip, they wandered around the terminal, where their badges attracted much attention from other travellers.

"You mean they've come all this way just to go back again immediately? They're mad," said one French businessman.

"I think it's a good idea but it's a shame you can't go out and visit the town a bit," ventured his companion.

Just 20 minutes later, it was time to go home. Still sporting their blue badges, the promenaders rejoined the aircraft, to tackle their second meal in three hours.

beli in lita